

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

THE
J.B. WORTHINGTON
COLLECTION

MAY 25, 2005

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

Prices Realized

Total Prices Realized \$3.2 Million

THE J.B. WORTHINGTON COLLECTION

MAY 25, 2005 • ATLANTA, GA



This 1796 Quarter Rarity graded MS-64 (NGC)
sold for \$143,750



This Gem 1830 Dime, JR-5, graded
MS-67 (PCGS) brought \$26,450



This 1867 Rays Shield Nickel graded
Proof-65 (PCGS) brought \$62,100



This 1880 Nickel graded MS-65
(NGC) sold for \$43,700



This 1897 Half Dollar graded Proof-69 Ultra Cameo
(NGC) sold for \$80,500



This 1802 Half Dollar
graded AU-50 (PCGS)
realized \$27,600



This 1918/7-D Nickel graded MS-62
(PCGS) realized \$36,800



This MCMVII Double Eagle graded MS-64 (PCGS)
brought \$32,775



This Gem 1794 Half Dime, LM-3, graded
MS-65 (NGC) realized \$73,600



This 1860 Half Dollar graded
Proof-67 (PCGS) brought \$39,100

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	2,185.00	8	586.50	16	2,530.00	23	6,440.00	30	603.75	37	2,760.00	44	1,955.00	51	805.00
2	1,840.00	9	345.00	17	747.50	24	4,140.00	31	1,207.50	38	4,600.00	45	1,265.00	52	2,530.00
3	3,220.00	11	3,910.00	18	1,265.00	25	2,070.00	32	1,495.00	39	5,520.00	46	2,300.00	53	2,530.00
4	4,370.00	12	5,980.00	19	506.00	26	3,680.00	33	1,495.00	40	6,325.00	47	747.50	54	1,610.00
5	2,990.00	13	2,990.00	20	529.00	27	1,610.00	34	2,415.00	41	4,830.00	48	1,725.00	55	4,600.00
6	1,006.25	14	632.50	21	5,520.00	28	3,680.00	35	3,910.00	42	1,150.00	49	1,955.00	56	11,500.00
7	529.00	15	805.00	22	9,200.00	29	2,990.00	36	6,325.00	43	1,265.00	50	11,500.00	57	4,600.00

BOX 1804 • WOLFEBORO, NH 03894 • 866-811-1804 • 603-569-0823 • FAX: 603-569-3875

All prices listed include the 15% buyer's fee

THE
J.B. WORTHINGTON
COLLECTION



MAY 25, 2005 • ATLANTA, GA

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES

THE J.B. WORTHINGTON COLLECTION

1796 BROWNING-2 QUARTER DOLLAR



Mint State-64 (NGC)

Lot 199

May 25, 2005
Atlanta, Georgia

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

Box 1804 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894 • Toll-Free: 866-811-1804 • 603-569-0823

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Licensed auctioneers: Christine Karstedt (ANR002971)

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES

THE SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

6:00 PM Sharp

*Colonial and United States Coins,
Pattern Coins, Shipwreck Coins*

Lots: 1-438

AUCTION LOCATION

COBB GALLERIA CENTRE • ROOM 104
2 Galleria Parkway • Atlanta, GA 30339
770-955-8000

LOT VIEWING

TUESDAY, MAY 24 • ROOM 104

12:00 noon - 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 • HALL A

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

LOT PICK-UP

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2005 • HALL A

9:00 am - 11:30 am

LOT VIEWING & PICK-UP LOCATIONS

COBB GALLERIA CENTRE • ROOM 104 & HALL A
2 Galleria Parkway • Atlanta, GA 30339
770-955-8000

To insure we receive your bids:

Please have mail and fax bids
to us by:

NOON, Eastern Time
Tuesday May 24, 2005.

There will be pre-sale and
live bidding available
on the Internet at
www.anrcoins.com
Pre-registration for live
Internet bidding is required
by Tuesday May 24, 2005.

Prices Realized

Prices realized will be posted on
the Internet soon after the sale. See
www.anrcoins.com

A printed list of prices realized will
be sent to all subscribers approxi-
mately 30 days after the sale.

For prices realized by phone:
Call 603-569-0823. Limit 10 lots
per caller.

THE PEOPLE

of American Numismatic Rarities

President: Christine Karstedt

Numismatic Director: Q. David Bowers

AUCTION

Dr. Richard A. Bagg, *Consignments*

John Pack, *Consignments*

Frank Van Valen, *Senior Numismatist*

John J. Kraljevich, *Numismatic Research*

Beth O. Piper, *Numismatist*

Cynthia LaCarbonara, *Auction Coordinator*

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Georgie Babalis

Andrew Bowers

Jenna V. King

Vicki L. Martin

Pam Roberts

Mary Tocci

Jeremy Wiggin

AUCTIONEERS

Christine Karstedt

Frank Van Valen

FINANCIAL

Laurel A. Morrill

SALES

Melissa Karstedt

GRAPHICS

Jennifer Meers

Christine Metcalfe

Jenna V. King

PHOTOGRAPHY

Douglas Plasencia



Christine Karstedt serves as our *President* and handles our Marketing and Publicity with unbridled enthusiasm. A fixture at numismatic conventions and auctions for over a decade, Chris has built a vast network of industry contacts during her extensive career. Chris' unique ability to attract worldwide attention to the sale of numismatic material placed her at the epicenter of the

marketing of the \$100 million treasure of the S.S. *Central America*. Chris has worked with numismatic trade publications as well as the mainstream press since she initially started in the numismatic industry with Bowers and Merena. While there she structured the publicity for the sales of the Eliasberg Collection, the Bass Collection, the Norweb Collection of Canadian coins and countless other events. At American Numismatic Rarities she has coordinated the worldwide publicity for such auctions as the Haig A. Koshkarian Collection, the Oliver Jung Collection, and the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection of World Gold Coins. Her unstinting and tireless efforts help consignors receive the highest possible prices for their coins. Chris is deeply involved with day-to-day operations and is our lead auctioneer.

Q. David Bowers, Numismatic Director for American Numismatic Rarities, is perhaps the best-known and most noteworthy numismatist of the last 50 years. Beginning in 1953, Dave's contributions to numismatics have continued uninterrupted and unabated to the present day. His work with rare coins is so voluminous and so extraordinary that he was named by *CoinAge* magazine as one of the

"Numismatists of the Century." Dave's dedication to the hobby and his lifelong interest in rare coins, along with his pursuit of scholarly knowledge, have made him one of the most honored and revered numismatists of all time. Dave is the only person to have served as president of both the Professional Numismatists Guild (1977-1979) and the American Numismatic Association (1983-1985). Dave is the most prolific numismatic author of our generation, having produced more than 40 works, mostly written in the field of rare coins. From the Professional Numismatists Guild, he has received the coveted Friedberg Award a record seven times! During his illustrious career, Dave has catalogued and sold at public auction many of the finest and most valuable and important collections ever assembled.





Dr. Richard A. Bagg, *Director of Auction Consignments*, is a nationally known rare coin expert and scholar with 30 years of auction experience and has served as Auction Director for nearly two decades under the tutelage of Q. David Bowers. In the course of his celebrated career, Rick has processed several hundred million dollars worth of rare coins at auction for thousands of collectors, institutions, executors, dealers, and investors. Rick shows an impressive degree of expertise and consummate knowledge of numismatics with few parallels. As a numismatic scholar, Rick has provided information to over a dozen standard reference sources, conducted substantive research for the *Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins* and edited a book entitled *Grading Coins*. He has also written numerous articles that have appeared in numismatic trade publications including *The Numismatist* where he won a Heath Literary Award.

John M. Pack, our *Associate Director of Auction Consignments*, has been involved in numismatics for over 20 years. John's enthusiasm for all aspects of numismatics, and his sincere approach, guarantees that every consignment will be presented to its finest advantage so as to provide the highest possible prices realized. In addition to working with auction consignors, John catalogues currency for the firm. While at Bowers and Merena, John's cataloguing talent was widely recognized for several record setting presentations of U.S. paper money highlighted by the world-renowned collections of Bass and Rich. In addition, he was selected to compose the currency chapter of the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*.

Frank Van Valen, our *Senior Numismatist*, is one of America's best known numismatic personalities. Widely praised for over two decades for his numismatic cataloguing, Frank's byline has appeared in dozens of the most important catalogues ever written including the Norweb Collection sale and specialized collections, like the Texas Collection of California Fractional Gold and the historic coin collection of Commodore Matthew C. Perry. Frank has contributed to the last 16 editions of *A Guide Book of United States Coins* and his writing talents have earned him the recognition of the Numismatic Literary Guild. Frank has an expert understanding of the intricacies of all American coinage in addition to many other numismatic fields.

John J. Kraljevich, Jr., serves as our *Director of Numismatic Research*. A numismatic prodigy since preadolescence, John's insightful and historical contributions to our catalogues add value and interest to numismatic material in our sales. An expert on early American coinage, Numismatic Americana, and the technical aspects of minting technology, John has taught seminars hosted by the American Numismatic Association, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and is a columnist in the ANA magazine, *The Numismatist*. The Numismatic Literary Guild recognized John's cataloguing of the Lucien LaRiviere Collection, the first \$1 million collection of American medals ever sold at auction, with its highest cataloging award for tokens and medals. A frequent consultant to museums and institutions, John

catalogues many of our important offerings and enjoys working directly with our consignors. John was a recent recipient of the ANA's coveted Heath Literary Award for an article on the coins of pre-federal New York, and serves as an officer of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society and the Medal Collectors of America.

Beth Piper began her career in numismatics at Bowers and Merena and worked 18 years with that firm. In that time, she earned the distinction of having spent more continuous years working under the direction of Q. David Bowers than any other individual. One of her primary jobs is processing and proofreading auction lots and the final compilation of data files for catalogues. Her work with great numismatic auction sales is extensive and includes landmark offerings such as the collections of the Norweb family, Eliasberg, Bass and Childs, among over 100 other sales.

Cynthia LaCarbonara coordinates all aspects of our live auction sales. From working with consignor reserves, verification of opening values, and lot assignments, to reconciliation and finalization of all bidding and purchase records, Cynthia is an integral part of the system of checks and balances that make every auction sale a smoothly functioning success. She led the Bowers and Merena auction team that sold such great collections as those of Eliasberg, Childs, and Bass, a few highlights among dozens of important auction sales. A prominent figure at auction sales, Cynthia is well recognized by dealers and collectors alike.

Laurel Morrill manages our accounting department, handling all receivable and payable accounts for our auctions, direct sales, and subscriptions. It is her organized and efficient approach that guarantees each transfer of funds is correct and done promptly. Laurel has significant experience with the unique accounting requirements of a great numismatic auction firm. For over 16 years, she was an integral part of the accounting department of Bowers and Merena. While there, she participated in the accounting duties that promptly paid thousands of auction consignors hundreds of millions of dollars in settlement funds, an experience that makes her uniquely qualified.

Doug Plasencia manages our photography department and personally takes all of the coin photographs that appear in our auction catalogues, on our website, and in our other publications. He has been a professional numismatic photographer for many years, perfecting his skills with Bowers and Merena. In his career, he has photographed many of the most important numismatic collections ever formed and sold, including those of Eliasberg, Bass, Childs, among others. To his further credit, he was selected by the California Gold Marketing Group to do photography of the gold ingots recovered from the *S.S. Central America*, he photographed the Jay Roe Collection of California fractional gold coins to illustrate the most recent edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, and he was selected to photograph the Bass Core Collection by the Bass Research Foundation. His highly acclaimed work appears in the *Bass Sylloge*.



Jennifer Meers leads our graphic arts department. In her 13 years with Bowers and Merena, Jennifer developed an eye for professional catalogue design that is unparalleled in numismatics. She is responsible for all auction catalogue layout. In her career, she has put together many award-winning auction catalogues, books, and other publications. Among her most notable achievements are the auction catalogues for such famous collections as those of Eliasberg, Champa, Bass, and Childs among over 100 others, many of which earned Catalogue of the Year awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild. Book credits include the landmark works, *A California Gold Rush History featuring the treasure from the S.S. Central America*, and the *Harry W. Bass, Jr. Museum Sylloge*. Further, she carefully proofreads all of our publications and she contributes to our publicity campaigns in developing many of our finest advertisements and brochures.

Melissa Karstedt works with clients in our direct sales department, with the active support of our team of well-respected numismatists. She maintains our coin inventory and supervises our Monthly Acquisition Program, which assists clients with building fine collections by way of budgeted monthly coin purchases, with each coin is carefully and specifically selected by our numismatists to fit the collector's interests and preferences. Melissa began working in numismatics at Bowers and Merena, working in the Direct Sales department with numerous clients. She is also a valued member of our on-site auction team and eagerly assists clients at our bourse tables at the many coin conventions she regularly attends. She brings great enthusiasm to American Numismatic Rarities, and looks forward to receiving every call from our many clients worldwide.

Andrew Bowers manages our website content and coordinates editorial material for all of our publications. He is involved with the processing of auction consignments from our consignors. He assists in our retail operations, from putting coins in stock, to tracking our inventory. He brings a great deal of enthusiasm to American Numismatic Rarities. Being part of a numismatic and collector-oriented family, Andrew has grown to appreciate the various nuances of the collector. He has attended many coin conventions and ANA seminars and has traveled extensively with our company to gather coins for "want lists" and assist with our auctions.

Vicki L. Martin heads our personnel and operations department. She coordinates our on-site auction arrangements and is responsible for providing safe and secure transportation of valuable coin collections to the sales. Vicki supervises the many administrative matters at our office from coin and health insurance to computers and their programs. Vicki's strong organizational skills and detail-oriented background have earned her high

accolades over her 20 years experience handling personnel and operational issues with the companies with which she has been associated.

Pamela Roberts began her career in numismatic auctions with Bowers and Merena Galleries in August, 2000 and worked at both their Wolfeboro and Louisiana locations until recently moving back to New England, at which time, she became an integral part of the auction staff. At American Numismatic Rarities, Pam coordinates between consignors, cataloguers, and our graphics department, assists with essential consignment paperwork, and is responsible for much of our internal processing of auction lots, as well as proofreading. She will also be present at many of our live auction sales, working closely with Cynthia LaCarbonara.

Mary Tocci directs our shipping and receiving department, handling nearly every package and item of mail that enters or leaves our offices, a position vital to the security of all of our incoming and outgoing packages. She began a career with Bowers and Merena in April 1983, and aside from one brief interlude, worked for Q. David Bowers for 19 years in total. Mary also has an excellent rapport with many collectors, having spent years working with clients in subscription maintenance and publication sales.

Christine Metcalfe is an integral part of our Graphics and Photography departments. After two years with Bowers and Merena, she worked as a graphic designer in Pittsburgh at a real estate marketing firm. She has recently joined American Numismatic Rarities, where her graphic design, proofreading, and photography skills will contribute to our auction catalogues, as well as our other fine publications.

Georgie Babalis is well-known in the numismatic auction field, as she is often the first person to greet collectors and dealers as they register to bid at the auction venue. Her enthusiasm for American Numismatic Rarities and the numismatic hobby, as well as her friendly smile and sincere interest in people, insures that participating in person at an ANR auction is an enjoyable experience.

Jenna V. King is the friendly voice you hear when you call American Numismatic Rarities. She comes to us with several years of experience working in the coin field, having begun her career at Bowers and Merena where she assisted in photography and graphics, and in catalogue production. As an accomplished photographer, Jenna also lends her talents to the graphics and photography departments at American Numismatic Rarities.



Jeremy Wiggin wears many hats at American Numismatic Rarities from shipping and receiving to supervision and maintenance of our computer systems. He spent nearly three years at Bowers and Merena, during which time he was responsible for inventory control and shipping of thousands of catalogues, books and other publications.

THE TERMS OF SALE

1 This sale is by public auction conducted by licensed auctioneer(s). The bids will be for specific lots which will be opened for bidding in numerical order. In the event that bids for the same amount are received for the same lot, the winning bid will be the earliest received. The decision of the Auctioneer as to identity of the winning bidder shall be final. Any person submitting bids on behalf of a corporation or any other entity agrees to be personally liable for payment of the purchase price and any related charges as well as responsible for the performance of all buyer obligations under these terms of sale. No "buy" or unlimited bids will be accepted. No bids will be accepted from minors.

2 American Numismatic Rarities, LLC, (subsequently referred to as ANR in the Terms of Sale) reserves the right to postpone or cancel the auction without notice in its sole discretion. Any lot may be withdrawn by ANR without notice prior to it being opened for bidding. Neither ANR nor the consignor shall be liable for any costs or damages arising from either the withdrawal of material at the auction or the delay or cancellation of the auction.

3 The purchase price shall be sum of the winning bid and a buyer's premium of 15% of the amount of the winning bid. The purchase price shall be paid in full prior to delivery of the lot absent other arrangements between the successful bidder and ANR. The decision to extend a line of credit and the decision to withdraw a previously authorized line of credit shall be within the sole discretion of ANR. ANR reserves the right to deny participation in the auction if, in ANR's sole discretion, the bidder's prior business dealings with ANR have been unsatisfactory.

4 Payment shall be by cash in United States funds or checks drawn on United States banks. Purchases up to \$10,000 may be charged to a credit card (MasterCard, Visa, AmEx, Discover). The purchase price shall be paid upon delivery of the lot or receipt of our invoice for the lot, whichever occurs first. All associated costs for the delivery of the lot such as handling, shipping, insurance, and related charges will be added to the purchase price for lots not picked up after the

auction by the winning bidder. On any account not paid within the prescribed terms of sale, ANR reserves the right to extend credit and to impose periodic finance charges at the rate of 1-1/2% per month (18% per annum) on the unpaid balance. By bidding in the sale, the bidder agrees to permit ANR to file any financing statement permitted under the Uniform Commercial Code without debtor's signature and to offset any accounts due, whether now or in the future, against funds or collateral in their possession. The buyer agrees not to sell, pledge, or hypothecate the lots purchased until paid in full. If the account is referred to an attorney for collection, the buyer agrees to pay all costs, including attorneys' fees, with interest accruing on the balance, until fully paid, at the specified rate.

5 Bidders shall be responsible for all taxes due as a result of their purchases.

6 Title does not pass from the consignor to the successful bidder until the purchase price for the lot has been paid in full. The risk of loss is on the buyer once the lot is either in transit to the successful bidder or in their possession.

7 ANR reserves the right to establish the opening bid for any lot, to establish bidding increments, and to refuse any bid. ANR reserves the right to place bids on behalf of the consignor up to the amount of a reserve price established by the consignor. ANR will not accept a reserve price from a consignor above the high estimated value shown in the catalog for the auction and any exceptions to this rule will be announced at the auction prior to the opening of bidding on the material. ANR shall make reasonable efforts to properly enter and execute bids received by mail or by other means. However, ANR shall not be liable for any errors for incorrectly entered or incorrectly executed bids.

8 Bidders are responsible for their bids including any errors they may make in placing bids. All bids shall be in even dollar amounts and any bids not in whole dollar amounts will be rounded to the next highest dollar. All bid sheets must be signed, and ANR reserves the right to not accept unsigned bid sheets.

9 All items offered in this auction catalog are guaranteed to be genuine. Buyer agrees that except for questions of authenticity, there is not right of return for any reason whatsoever for any coin certified by any third party certification service. Further, Buyer agrees that except for questions of authenticity, there is not right of return lots nor shall ANR accept any returned lots from any floor bidder or any bidder who examined the lots prior to the sale. Mail, FAX and Internet bidders may make return requests within three days of the receipt of the lot. Coins must be returned to ANR's offices in Wolfeboro, N.H. within 30 days from the date of the auction. Any coin which has been physically altered or which has been removed from its container or holder shall not be returnable nor accepted by ANR.

10 Bidders by accepting these terms of sale acknowledge that the grading of coins is a subjective process for describing the relative ranking of coins as to their condition. Consequently, the language used to describe any coin in this catalog, including but not limited to the grading of such coin, are statements of subjective opinion by the ANR staff. No warranty, whether expressed or implied, including the warranty of merchantability, is made with respect to any coin contained in this catalog. In the event of a typographical error or other error, ANR reserves the right to withdraw any item from the auction with or without notice, to correct the error by verbal announcement before the lot is opened for bidding or, if the error is discovered after the auction, to refund the successful bidder's funds without further obligation. The maximum obligation of ANR to any bidder shall be the purchase price for any lot in dispute or for which a refund or adjustment is made for any reason.

11 ANR acts as an auctioneer to sell coins for the various consignors. Therefore, no claims of any kind can be considered by ANR after settlements, which occur 45 days after the auction, have been made with the consignors. Any dispute after the settlement date except for reasons of au-

thenticity, is to be resolved strictly by discussions between the successful bidder and consignor.

12 Cash advances may have been made to some consignors in anticipation of auction proceeds. ANR may consign items to this auction and may participate as a bidder. ANR or the consignor may bid for their own account at the auction and may have information not otherwise available to the bidders regarding reserves, bid values, and other material facts relating to the lots opened for bidding at the auction. When a lot is sold to the book, it may be sold, passed over, withdrawn from the auction, returned to the owner or bought by ANR. Any consignor may bid on any lot, including lots containing coins consigned by the consignor.

13 By placing a bid in this sale, a bidder agrees that this transaction shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire and that neither New Hampshire's or any other state's choice of laws and/or conflict of laws shall be applied. Any dispute between ANR and bidders at the auction (except for non-payment) shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration under the rules then in effect of the Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc. conducted at Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. In the event of non-payment, ANR and a successful bidder agree that any judicial action shall be heard and determined only by the courts of the State of New Hampshire and the successful bidder hereby consents and submits to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of New Hampshire.

14 In the event of litigation, the party against whom a final judgment is rendered shall pay the prevailing parties' legal costs, including attorneys fees and witness fees, and all other costs incurred by it during the course of such litigation.

15 These Terms of Sale are intended to be part of all lot descriptions contained in this catalogue. Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of the foregoing Terms of Sale.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

TO INSURE WE RECEIVE YOUR BIDS, please have mail and fax bids to us by NOON, Eastern Time Tuesday May 24, 2005.

- There will be pre-sale and live bidding available on the internet at www.anrcoins.com.
- Pre-registration to bid during the live auction required by May 24, 2005.

PHONE DESCRIPTIONS: Any request for phone descriptions should be made by May 16, 2005.

PRICES REALIZED will be published approximately 30 days after

the auction. Prices realized will be posted on the Internet soon after the sale at www.anrcoins.com

NEW BIDDERS: If you are a new bidder, be sure to send your credit information: Attn: Laurel Morrill, at least 10 days before the auction. There is very little time, if any, to review this information during the auction. All bidders not known to us will be required to submit a 25% deposit before bidding in the sale.

FLOOR BIDDER REGISTRATION will begin 30 minutes before the sale at the entrance to the auction room.

Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT intended for long-term storage

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAIL BIDDERS

Bidding in our auctions can be an interesting, enjoyable, and numismatically rewarding experience. Even if you are an experienced bidder, you may find that some of the following comments will increase your success. In the event that you wish to ask further questions, phone Cynthia LaCarbonara.

Mail your bid sheet as early as possible. This is particularly important if you are a new bidder, for it takes us time to check your references. A bid sheet mailed a few days before the sale might not reach us until a week later—at which time the coins will have been sold to others!

As the sale date draws near, fax us your bids anytime 24 hours a day [our fax number is (603) 569-3875]. Or, telephone your bids to our Auction Department. Please follow up your phone and fax bids with written confirmation.

We've found it best to use a work sheet to compile bids. In this way you can check back and forth throughout the catalogue, make changes and revisions, and so on. Then when you've decided on your final bids, enter them on the bid sheet. Try your best to keep the bid sheet neat and clearly understandable, listing the lots in order. Check your bid sheet carefully. You will be responsible for any bids on wrong lots or for the wrong amounts. Please be careful.

Don't bid more than you want to pay! Review your financial circumstances carefully before bidding. There is always the possibility that you may be awarded all of the lots you bid on. If you are awarded lots, you are legally bound to pay for them immediately.

Please keep current price levels in mind when bidding. While high and low prices sometimes occur, most items sell within market ranges. If a popular coin sells for \$500 on the retail market, chances are not good that a bid of, say, less than \$400 will win it. On the other hand, chances are excellent that a bid in the \$500-\$600 range will be competitive. There is no harm in bargain hunting, but as your time is valuable (and so is ours), it is most productive if you keep current values in mind while bidding. The higher you bid, the greater your chances are for success. It has been our experience that many people who bid strongly, or check the options to increase bids by an optional 10% to 30% actually purchase at least some lots below their maximum authorization once the sale takes place.

Ink is best for writing bids. Pencil tends to blur. If bid changes are necessary, do not write over figures. Instead, cross them out completely and re-enter the bids. Put your telephone number on the bid sheet. This way we can call you if there is a question about a bid.

SPECIAL BIDDING OPTIONS

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

If you wish to limit your total expenditure, please fill in the maximum amount you wish to spend on the TOTAL EXPENDITURE line on your bid sheet. You can then submit bids for amounts up to eight times the amount of the maximum expenditure. This is a personal service and an ANR customer representative will personally attend to your bid sheet by bidding from the auction floor, buying lots for your account until your authorized expenditure is reached. While we will do our best in your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly. Due to the bookkeeping involved, this service is offered only to bidders with maximum expenditures of \$1,000 or more. TOTAL EXPENDITURE and SINGLE LOT GROUP bidding can be combined.

SINGLE LOT GROUP

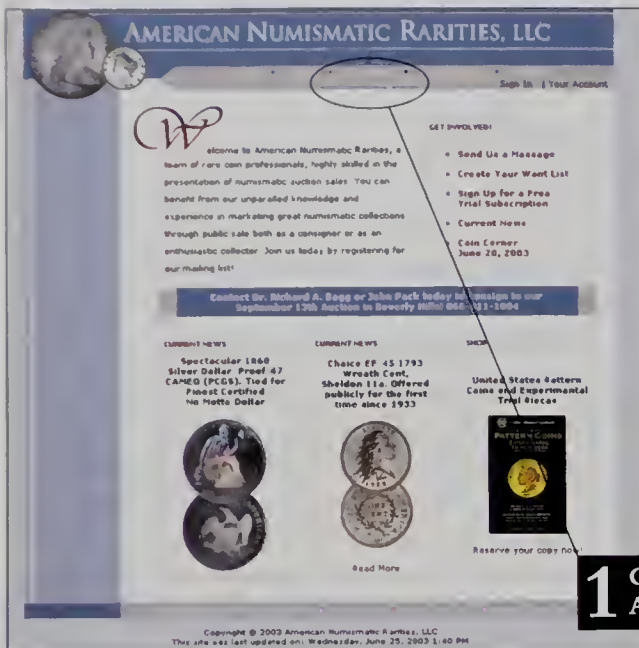
Up to five lots may be grouped with brackets for a SINGLE LOT GROUP purchase, if you wish to purchase only one example of a coin of which several examples appear in the sale. Such lots should be bracketed on your bid sheet. While we will do our best on your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly.

OPTIONAL PERCENTAGE INCREASE

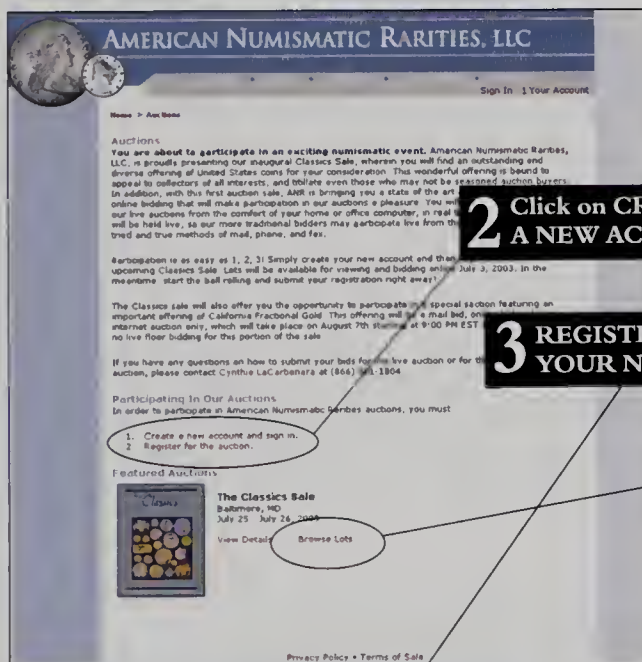
We invite you to take advantage of the optional 10% to 30% increase to help your chance of being a successful bidder. Check the appropriate place on your bid sheet.

Guide to PRE-SALE ONLINE BIDDING

Visit our website at www.anrcoins.com to register and bid in the J.B. Worthington Collection. Once you have a user name and password, you can browse lots from the sale, view photographs of the coins, and place bids. Follow the instructions listed in Steps 1-6 to place your bids over the internet *before* the sale begins.



1 Click on AUCTIONS

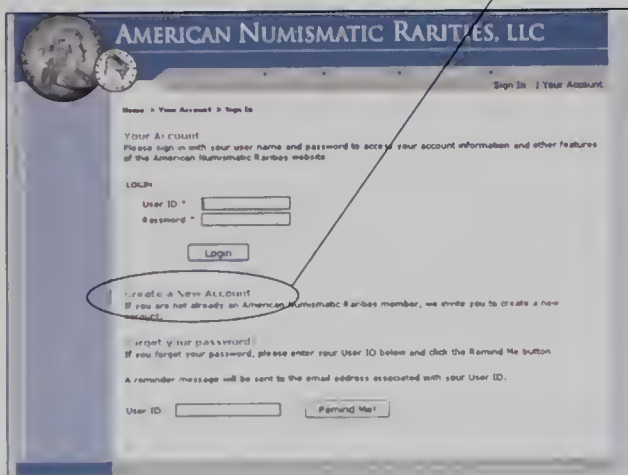


2 Click on CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT

3 REGISTER AND CREATE YOUR NEW ACCOUNT

4 Return to auctions page. Click on BROWSE LOTS

5 Click on lots you wish to view or bid on



Lot	Description	Service	Grade	Session	High Bid	Live Bidding	Starts In
1227	1794 SOC Overton-101a. Rarity-4. Lovely antique pewter gray with an overall golden cast and much lustre remaining within stars and	NGC	AU 50	2			
1228	1794 SOC O-101a. Rarity-4. "Improperly cleaned." Pleasing silver gray with deeper olive gray toning at the peripheries. An	NET	VF-20	2			
1229	1795 SOC O-102. Rarity-5. Golden gray surfaces show a circle of bright blue toning around obverse devices and peripheries.	ANACS	F 15	2	\$1,600		
1230	1795 SOC O-103a. Rarity-5. Medium gray and light surfaces, nicely toned over a long period of years. Mint caused adjustment		F 12	2	\$1,450		
1231	1795 SOC O-104. Rarity-4. Light gray surfaces, smooth and attractive. Some porosity at the lower right obverse, and a few		G 4	2			
1232	1795 SOC O-105. Rarity-4. Attractive dark slate gray fields with lighter devices rising on an almost tan background, probably from	PCGS	F 12	2			
1233	1795 SOC O-106. Rarity-4. Another pleasing 1795 half dollar, well worn, but with attractive medium gray surfaces. Essentially		VG 10	2			
1234	1795 SOC O-110. Rarity-4. Unusually mottled gray toning incorporates light silver gray and darker tones, especially deeply	PCGS	F 12	2			
1235	Group of half dollars. * 1795 O-119. Rarity-4. AG-3, sharpness of G-4, very slightly bank. * 1801 O-101. Rarity-3. G-4, dig			2			
1236	1796 SOC O-101. Rarity-5. 15 Stars. A world-class example of this classic and highly desirable rarity. This well-pedigreed example	NGC	MS 62	2			

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AMERICAN NUMISMATIC RARITIES, LLC

Home > Auctions > Auction Detail > Browse Lots > Lot Detail

ITEM: 76 Watch Item
1797 50C 15 Stars
MS 66 (NGC)
\$200,000.00
\$966,000.00

Show Reverse Large Photos
Move your mouse over the image to see the details.

"Live Bidding" and "Starts In" times are approximate.

DESCRIPTION
1797 D-101a. Rarity-5. 15 Stars. MS-66 (NGC).

Type and designer: 1796-1797 Draped Bust, Small Eagle. By Robert Scot.

In 1988 when the collection of Ambassador and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb was offered by Bowers and Merena, the 1797 half dollar was one of its foremost features—a coin of a lifetime, a piece of legendary importance. The buyer was Dr. Koshlan, who was justifiably proud of it, receiving congratulations on the spot from Dave Bowers and others of the company. In the intervening 15 years—some 100 times—the piece has been comfortably cared for in the Koshlan Collection. Here again it is offered for sale.

It is appropriate at this point to repeat verbatim the description under which it was offered in the Norweb Collection:

"Although among Draped Bust obverse, small eagle reverse half dollars of 1796-1797, a few prooflike 1796 pieces, the year earlier, exist—indeed, refer to Lot 3024 [in the 1988 Norweb sale]—an uncirculated preservation, never mind being prooflike, the 1797 half dollar is virtually unknown. Here is a marvelous exception, a classic coin which will be forever remembered as one of the great legendary rarities of the Norweb Collection."

To add to that, we might add that this piece displays reflective, lustrous surfaces that exhibit a rich panorama of old tening, predominately gold and silver gray with areas of deep violet and blue on the right side of the obverse and near the base of the reverse. A curved lintmark is present above Liberty's cleavage. Were this coin not rare, it would still be beautiful—the frosty devices stand out from the profile fields in fully realized detail, the toning is original and as it was at the time of the 1988 Norweb sale, the fields are free of all but the most minor contact points, the finer details of the die such as Liberty's hair and the eagle's feathers are neatly rendered, and the inevitable adjustment marks are reserved to the extreme reverse periphery with no interruption of the central devices as so often seen on this type. Speaking of this type, it is without any question the rarest type of the entire American silver series, a great challenge more often than not entirely omitted from type sets and when included often found in wretched—even holed—condition. The very fact that the piece representing this type in the Hag Koshlan collection is either the finest known specimen or bid for that honor with one other example speaks volumes about this notable set. Although an occasional prooflike half dollar of 1796 is found in Mint State condition, the same cannot be said for these dated 1797. Only a few pieces of Mint State quality are known, with only the former Lelan Rogers coin—a piece that brought over \$500,000 at public sale in 1995—in close competition with this one for finest known honors. The present Norweb specimen is further pedigreed to Stack's November 1955 sale of the Balderhofer Collection, where it was described as:

"1797. a superb example of this very rare date. The finest striking we have ever seen. We cannot conceive that this specimen could be ascribed. The coin was purchased as a proof, however to conservatively grade it we will call it prooflike surface, definitely one of the first coins to leave the dies. Perfectly centered at deep mintage, perfect color. All the requisites that the advanced and critical collector desires... a real prize!"

That description, written before many of the present generation of collectors were even born, is as accurate as ever. This example in the prize of the Koshlan type set and, quite simply, one of the most desirable 18th-century U.S. coins extant. Perhaps more words would be tantamount to gilding the lily, except that we should note that in 2004 there are many more buyers of high quality coins than there were in either 1955 or 1988. Accordingly, we expect competition to be intense, if not downright fierce, and deservingly so. Who knows—perhaps a generation will again pass before this memorable piece crosses the auction block.

From Stack's sale of the Balderhofer Collection, November 1955, Lot 676; Auctions by Bowers and Merena's sale of the Norweb Collection, November 1988, Lot 3027.

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Password:
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6 Login with user ID and Password to place your bids

**LIVE
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Guide to LIVE ONLINE BIDDING

We also offer the option of live online bidding during the auction. However, you must pre-register by noon, Tuesday May 24, 2005 to take advantage of this service. When the live auction begins, one click will take you to the live bidding screen below. When your lot becomes active, you may enter a proxy bid or "InstaBid" as the lot is being auctioned on the floor. The computer lets you know your bidding status.

For more information on live bidding, or to pre-register visit anrcoins.com or call 866-811-1804.

When the live auction begins, pre-registered bidders may access live bidding with a click!

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4 Prev Lot | Lot# 60 | Next Lot

Lot # 95: 1806 1/2C C-2, B-1.
Grade: VF 20 (PCGS)
Live Bidding: Tuesday, February 3, 2004 1:37:54 (approx.)
Starts In: LIVE
Current Bid: \$0.00 (0 bids)

Your Bidder #: 1001
Current Bid: \$0.00
Bid Increment: \$0.00
Your Bid: (\$434.00 min.)

Bidder #	Source	Date	Amount

American Numismatic Rarities, LLC

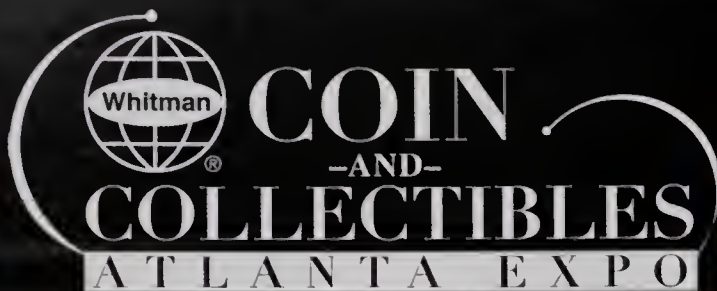
4 Prev Lot | Lot# 60 | Next Lot

Lot # 95: 1806 1/2C C-2, B-1.
Grade: VF 20 (PCGS)
Live Bidding: Wednesday, January 14, 2004 1:37:40 (approx.)
Starts In: LIVE
Current Bid: \$0.00 (0 bids)

Bidder #	Source	Date	Amount

4 = your most recent bid 1 = your older bids
Your bid is a legally binding contract. By placing a bid, you are agreeing to our Terms of Sale.
Place a bid only if you are serious about purchasing the coin.
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10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily

You're invited to one of America's premier collectibles shows—the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Atlanta Expo. Whether you're a collector, investor, or dealer, you'll have the chance to buy, sell, and trade coins and currency with industry leaders; attend educational seminars by numismatic experts; and see some of the most popular coins and currency in the hobby on display. Coin grading services, numismatic authors, clubs, and collectibles industry representatives will be on hand.

American Numismatic Rarities Auction:

J.B. Worthington Collection of High-Grade Type Coins

Wednesday, May 25, 2005 – 6:00 p.m.

- Professional Grading Services On Site
- Educational Seminars
- Numismatic Publication Autograph Sessions



Show information:

David Crenshaw 404-214-4373

For complete show information and future Whitman Expo dates, visit us at www.whitmanexpo.com

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770-955-8000

The Cobb Galleria Centre is located in Northwest Atlanta at I-75 and I-285.

WELCOME

to the

J.B. WORTHINGTON COLLECTION

By Q. David Bowers

A Great Sale in a Great City

Atlanta is the venue for the latest American Numismatic Rarities sale. Of all the cities in the United States, Atlanta is one of the easiest to visit—with air connections to just about everywhere. We invite you to come.

Our sale is in the evening, six o'clock sharp, on Wednesday, May 25th, the day before the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Show in the same place—the Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta. Lot viewing begins at noon on Tuesday the 24th and during the day on the 25th. A good plan would be to arrive by Tuesday noon, as the viewing process sometimes becomes crowded as the sale time approaches.

The J.B. Worthington Collection, modest in size but immense in importance, is quite special—for it was assembled very carefully by a true *connoisseur*, not always the case in today's numismatic world, where emphasis is often only on grading numbers.

As always, the production of the catalogue has been done by what I like to call the "dream team" in numismatics—highly qualified professionals who have been in rare coins for a long time. My gosh, it seems like only yesterday when Dr. Rick Bagg, was working with me and The Johns Hopkins University in the presentation of the Garrett Collection. This was in 1979. Or, perhaps I should mention the California Collection in 1957! Back then, Jim Ruddy and I did the cataloguing.

Today is today, and the market has changed a lot and in many different ways. There are more collectors, more dealers, instant information (perhaps *too much*, it seems at times), and a great emphasis on grading numbers. If a coin has a tag of MS-66, that is enough for most buyers—in fact, probably 90% of them. Not so with the gentleman who formed the J.B. Worthington Collection. Numbers were just the beginning, after which much time was spent in acquiring coins with superb surfaces and eye appeal.

While John Kraljevich and Frank Van Valen were concentrating on coins from copper half cents to treasure-ship gold coins, and Doug Plasencia was photographing them, it fell to me to catalogue the silver Proofs in the Liberty Seated and Barber series. I've probably seen as many of these as any dealer alive today. I have never seen a finer offering than the one presented here. If numbers are your emphasis, you'll be comfortable, for the numbers are, indeed,

high—often among the finest certified. However, the *quality* is there, too—and in spades. Thinking of specializing in these Proofs? Or buying a few for a high-quality type set? You've come to the right place. If you are not thinking about this *now*, but thought of it years ago, then there are some *early-date* Liberty Seated Proofs you've probably been seeking for a long time. Your search may end here.



Among the Sale Attractions

Now, to other highlights. Among nickel five-cent pieces you'll find a lot to love—quality plus rarity, the latter category nicely anchored with a Mint State 1918/7-D nickel. A gem 1794 half dime will delight bidders, representing as it does the earliest date in the series. A choice Mint State 1795 keeps it good company.

If Jeff Garrett and Ron Guth were to write *The 100 Greatest 20th Century United States Coins*, the 1916-D dime would surely be near the top of the list. It isn't the rarest 20th century coin, nor is it the most expensive. However, in the super-popular series of Mercury dimes, it is certainly tough to find in gem preservation (see Lot 194), and for every one in existence, probably a thousand collectors want it!

The series of twenty-cent pieces is short—only from 1875 to 1878—the most abbreviated denomination in American numismatics. The J.B. Worthington Collection has a full run of Proofs, notable because the 1877 and 1878 have *superb eye appeal*. If you are a specialist, you realize that for some unknown reason these two dates (but not the 1875 and 1876) are often found unattractive, even if assigned high grade numbers.

The 1796 quarter dollar is a dream coin in a way. It represents the first year of issue of the 25¢ denomination and the only year in which the Draped Bust obverse is combined with the Small Eagle reverse. Lot 199 in our sale is a dandy MS-64. Paraphrasing a commentary made by Augustus G. Heaton a century ago, whenever an 1827 quarter dollar appears at auction, the temperature in an auction room is likely to rise. Here we have *two* of these classic rarities, an original and a restrike—see Lot 200 and Lot 201. It was researcher Karl Moulton who made the interesting discovery

that the 1827 obverse die is a double overdate, over a 3 and also an earlier 2! In an earlier use the same die was employed to make the 1823, 2 quarter, also a rarity.

An 1802 half dollar in exceptional AU-50 grade is from the James Bennett Pryor Collection. The late Jim Pryor, a fine friend for many years, built one of the finest collections of half dollars ever. A superb gem 1837 half dollar will surely look good in your type set. If Morgan silver dollars are your forte, selected opportunities beckon.

The Mint only struck 20 Proof \$3 gold coins bearing the date 1874. One of them is our Lot 365, a gorgeous gem. A Proof-67 1899 \$5 might not be as rare from a mintage viewpoint, but the assigned grade number plus accompanying quality combine to make this an attraction as well, in good company with many other memorable gold coins. How about a superb gem Proof-66 gold dollar? See Lot 360. A gem Mint State 1833 half eagle (rare enough in EF or AU, but MS-65, amazing!)? See Lot 366. A pleasing MCMVII (1907) High Relief double eagle? Lot 370 beckons.

In my opinion, the find of the S.S. *Central America* treasure stands as one of the greatest events in American numismatics. *Coin World* editor Beth Deisher called it the "story of the year" when the coins and ingots were distributed. Now they are all gone, and have been for quite some time. Making a reprise appearance on the market is a memorable collection of different die varieties of 1857-S twenties from this hoard, accompanied by some interesting contemporary newspapers.

In 2004, the latest chapter in golden treasures was written by the recovery of over 51,000 coins from the long-lost S.S. *Republic*, which sank off the coast of Georgia in October 1865. Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., made the find, which included several thousand gold coins, plus tens of thousands of half dollars. Among double eagles there were examples of each date and mint from 1850 to 1865, except for the 1856-O. When time permits, I'd like to do an analysis of treasure-ship double eagles, the dates found and state of wear. In the meantime, some *crème de la crème* double eagles and other pieces have been consigned to this sale. Enjoy the possibilities!

More About Our Sale and the Expo

If you were at the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expo last year you know that the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta is a modern, nicely appointed convention center and complex, comfortable and in a nice setting. Our sale will be in a comfortable gallery. The auctioneer will be our own Chris Karstedt. Our auction staff will be on hand, too. Come, participate in the bidding, and have a good time!

Bidding can also be by mail, by Internet (including real-time, as explained in this catalogue), or by telephone (by special ar-

rangement, for rarities). We all invite you to be a part of one of the highest-quality auctions of the year.

Our colleagues, Stack's of New York City, will also be having an auction at the Expo, featuring Part X of the remarkable John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, on Thursday evening, May 26. At the bourse at the Expo will be many fine dealers from all over the country.

An interesting program of information and education is being created by David Crenshaw of the Whitman staff. I've been asked to give a talk or mini-seminar on rare coin investment, and will do so. No doubt, Whitman will have a great display on view—with various Whitman authors, such as *Guide Book* editor Ken Bressett, hovering around the exhibit and the show.

American Numismatic Rarities will be having a bourse table at the Expo, so be sure to visit us there as well.

Thinking of Selling?

Right now, Dr. Rick Bagg and John Pack, our primary auction directors, are gathering consignments for our next several sales. Already in house are many truly remarkable coins and other items—assuring that *your* coins will be in good company. At American Numismatic Rarities our emphasis is on *quality*. Each sale receives my careful personal attention as well as the talents of everyone else on the staff—a group of people whose collective experience and expertise I consider unmatched in numismatics.

Thinking of selling, email Rick Bagg at rickb@anrcoins.com or John Pack at johnp@anrcoins.com. Or for immediate information, call us toll-free at 866-811-1804. If you'd like to e-mail me (about a consignment or anything else—a collecting question or inquiry, for example), my address is qdavid@anrcoins.com.

The "dream team" at ANR has had more experience in the cataloguing, presentation, and auctioning of rare coins and collections than any other auction house in existence. I invite you to tap our expertise, our enthusiasm, and proven results.

This may well be the most profitable thing you've ever done. All of us, including me, will give *your* coins our best service and attention.

Thank you for being part of the J.B. Worthington Collection sale, and thank you for being a friend of American Numismatic Rarities. We all appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,



Q. David Bowers

THE SESSION

Wednesday, May 25 - 4:00 pm Sharp

ROOM 104
Cobb Galleria Centre

U.S. COPPER COINS

What may be the tiniest offering of half cents and large cents ever offered by American Numismatic Rarities—three coins—is offered here for your bidding approval, along with a great group of small cents. A nice VF-30 1795 half cent, Plain Edge, No Pole is offered, followed immediately by its “big sister,” a nice VF-35 1795 Plain Edge large cent, and a MS-66 RD 1853 gem large cent rounds out the trio. An impressive group of 1857 and 1858-dated Flying Eagle cents is included, with gems of great quality and beauty to the fore. A choice MS-64 RB 1909-S Indian cent makes an appearance as well.

Just two lots of two-cent pieces are presented, featuring a pair of Proofs in one lot and a gem Proof-67 RB 1868 in the other. What this remarkable collection lacks in depth is ultimately made up for by the outstanding quality of each lot. Who knows, the coin you are looking for may be just one successful bid away!

HALF CENT



- 1 **1795 Cohen-5a, Breen-5a. Rarity-3. Plain Edge, No Pole. VF-30 (PCGS).** Attractive glossy dark brown with devices showing an appealing and contrasting shade of light brown. Far sharper than most of this variety, with a good full date and excellent detail on Liberty, though HALF CENT is a trifle weak as usually seen. Some light marks in the lower left obverse predate striking but were not struck with sufficient pressure to obliterate them. Mostly smooth, just the most minor light roughness within the periphery on the left side of the reverse and a tiny speck at the top of I in LIBERTY. An attractive specimen of this scarcer No Pole die variety, finer than most seen and worthy of a spot in a well-considered collection.

LARGE CENTS



- 2 **1795 Sheldon-76b. Rarity-1. Plain Edge. VF-35 (PCGS).** Pleasing even light brown with some golden highlights. Obverse is mostly smooth and well-detailed, reverse shows some scattered pitting and roughness, mostly within the bottom of the wreath. A series of scratches is present under STATES, with one or two elsewhere on the reverse, and a subtle batch of horizontal hairlines is noted on the cheek of Liberty under a glass. A collectible middle-grade specimen of this popular type.

Full Red 1853 N-25



- 3 **1853 Newcomb-25. Rarity-1. MS-66 RD (NGC).** Rich luster and full mint color on both sides, an attractive orange shade with golden highlights. Some light spotting is present on both sides, as often seen on specimens that boast this much mint color. Typical later die state for high-grade specimens of this variety. The surfaces are free from significant disturbances and the eye appeal is very nice. A very bold example which could hardly be improved upon.

NGC Census: 12; none finer within designation.

SMALL CENTS

Splendid 1857 Flying Eagle Cent

NGC Gem Mint State-66

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 4 **1857 MS-66 (NGC).** A satiny gem of the finest quality, both aesthetically and physically. Robust underlying lustre highlights the halos of pale violet, rose, and crimson that decorate the peripheries. No 1857 Flying Eagle cent has been certified finer than this lovely gem by NGC—here, then, is one of the finest of the date currently available to today's collectors.

NGC Census: 10; none graded finer.

Gem Mint State 1857 Flying Eagle Cent



(2x photo)

- 5 **1857 MS-65 (NGC).** An impressively lustrous gem with prooflike fields that impart a cameo appearance on both sides. Rich gold and rose highlights vie for your eyes' attention. The strike is a touch weak in certain areas, but the overall quality is virtually irresistible.



- 6 **1857 MS-64 (NGC).** Choice medium golden brown with rich lustre and satiny surfaces. Very faint wing tip details present on this neat variety. A pleasing "Flyer" for the grade.
- 7 **1857 MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous medium gold with olive highlights. Some die ejection or "shelf" doubling is noted in portions of the obverse legends.

- 8 **1857 Snow-1. Repunched Date. Obverse type of '56. MS-63 (NGC).** Sparkling, lustrous golden brown with rich orange, peach, and rose highlights. Nicely struck with much prooflike reflectivity in the fields. A scarce variety. In the second edition of Rick Snow's *Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide*, the author notes that Snow-1 is "the only die variety from the 'Obverse of 1856' group. These are quite scarce and in high demand. The coins from this die are some of the most attractive regular-issue Flying Eagles struck, usually with sharp strikes and very fine details. The earliest strikes are prooflike and at times have been confused for Proofs by auction cataloguers and grading services." It's almost as though the author was writing about the present specimen!

Snow-1. Repunched Date. Obverse type of 1856, squared opening in O in O(F), thin dentils above AMER, doubled date numerals.

- 9 **1857 MS-63 (NGC).** In an NGC "Mint Error" holder; here, an obverse planchet lamination has peeled away after striking, leaving behind a tiny, ragged planchet hollow near the dentils below the eagle's neck. Bright and lustrous golden brown with heavy rose overtones.

Popular 1857 Flying Eagle Cent Variety

Clashed with Half Dollar Die

- 10 **1857 FS 003. S-9. Flying Eagle. EF-40 (ANACS).** Medium golden brown with some lightness on the high points. The obverse of this popular variety was clashed with the obverse die of a Liberty Seated half dollar. The telltale diagnostic is a raised line through MERICA on the obverse; it is often mistaken for a die crack but it is actually the outline of Miss Liberty's arm from the half dollar die! Popular in all grades, this nice EF specimen should easily fit right into someone's collecting goals.

Lustrous Gem Uncirculated 1858 Flying Eagle 1¢

Large Letters



(2x photo)

- 11 **1858 Large Letters. MS-66 (NGC).** Satiny honey gold surfaces display strong underlying lustre coupled with wisps of faint sky blue and rose. A nicely struck gem with exceptional detail in all areas of the design. Die ejection doubling noted at most of the legend and date on the obverse, with a noticeable die crack running from the dentils above C of AMERICA, then through the following A and across the eagle's tail to the dentils near 4:00. Fewer than 20 1858 Large Letters cents have been called MS-66 or finer by NGC, with just two of those specimens finer than the present beauty.

NGC Census: 15; 2 finer (both MS-67).

Richly Toned 1858 Large Letters Cent



(2x photo)

- 12 **1858 Large Letters. MS-66 (NGC).** A satiny and lustrous deep golden gem. Slight prooflike reflectivity in the fields supports the frosty motifs on this sharply struck Flying Eagle cent. Only two examples of the date have been certified finer than the present beauty by NGC.

NGC Census: 15; 2 finer (MS-67).

A neat obverse die crack starts at the dentils at 3:00 and diagonally crosses the top of the final A in AMERICA, extending across the eagle's tail and then into the field below.

Gem Uncirculated 1858 Small Letters Cent



(2x photo)

- 16 **1858 Small Letters. MS-65 (NGC).** Rich deep golden surfaces with satiny cartwheel lustre. A small planchet flaw beneath the eagle's head is the only mark of note on this gem Flying Eagle cent. Only a dozen 1858 Small Letters cents have been certified finer than the present gem by NGC.

- 17 **Trio of Proof Indian cents:** ☆ 1882 Proof-65 RB (NGC). Reflective with splashes of iridescent magenta and blue on both surfaces, minute spotting noted on the obverse ☆ 1892 Proof-64 RB (ANACS). Reflective with minute spotting noted on the obverse ☆ 1902 Proof-64 RB (PCGS). Reflective with faint spots noted on the obverse. (Total: 3 pieces)

Lovely Gem Uncirculated 1858 Large Letters 1¢



- 13 **1858 Large Letters. MS-65 (PCGS).** A festival of bright rainbow iridescence graces the frosty motifs and slightly prooflike fields of this attractive gem. The strike is bold for the date, adding another level of desirability for prospective bidders.

Accompanied by an *Eagle Eye Photo Seal* certificate.

- 14 **1858 Large Letters. MS-63 (PCGS).** Lustrous golden brown with rose overtones. An obverse die cracks runs on a slight diagonal downward from the middle of the eagle's tail to the dentils at 4:00.

- 15 **1858 Large Letters. MS-63 (NGC).** Lustrous deep honey gold with rich rose highlights.

A network of fine obverse die lines wends its way through the legends, the most prominent of these forming a triangular chip at the tip of the eagle's tail.



- 18 **1909-S Indian. MS-64 RB (NGC).** Essentially medium orange with some areas of iridescent blue. Probably about 80% brilliant.

Remarkable as the lowest mintage regular issue in the Indian cent series. However, by 1909 there was an awareness of mintmarks, so in proportion more pieces were saved than was the case for circulation strikes of low-mintage issues of a generation earlier.

- 19 **Quartette of certified Lincoln cents:** ☆ 1909 V.D.B. MS-66 RD (NGC). Lustrous with traces of an old finger print ☆ 1909 MS-65 RD (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive ☆ 1914-D VF-20 (PCI). Attractive smooth brown surfaces ☆ 1995 Doubled Die Obverse. MS-67 RD (PCI). Satiny lustre. (Total: 4 pieces)

TWO-CENT PIECES

- 20 **Pair of PCGS-certified two-cent pieces:** ☆ 1864 Large Motto. MS-65 RB. Lustrous with faint splashes of magenta and blue ☆ 1868 MS-64 RB. Satiny and attractive surfaces. (Total: 2 pieces)

Gem Proof 1868 Two Cents

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 21 **1868 Proof-67 RB (NGC).** Sparkling gold and orange iridescence mingles with sky blue and rose on highly reflective surfaces. A delightful gem with a good dose of red. Some faint scattered flecks are noted on both sides, chiefly visible under low magnification. One of three 1868 Proof two-cent pieces called Proof-67 RB by NGC, with not a solitary Proof example of the date certified finer than the present coin within any designation!

NGC Census: 3; none finer within any designation.

NICKEL THREE-CENT PIECES

A panoramic view of the entire nickel three-cents series unfolds in this offering, including gem Proofs of every date in the series, 1865 to 1889 inclusive, most of which are the finest certified pieces from their respective third-party grading services, with a few gem Mint State pieces along for good measure, most of which are far rarer than their Proof counterparts! Odds are very, very good that you will find the coin you have been looking for right here! Our short but sweet offering of silver three-cent pieces includes the finest PCGS-certified Proof 1858 trime rarity, along with gem Proof specimens of the 1863, 1866, 1869, and 1872 issues. Just like we said: "short and sweet."

Gem Proof 1865 Nickel 3¢

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 22 **1865 Proof-67 (NGC).** An incredibly beautiful coin, a gem Proof example of the date that displays an abundance of bright gold and orange toning highlights. The motifs are frosted and the fields are mirrored, though cameo contrast is not mentioned on the holder. Broadly repunched date numerals present, a diagnostic for Proofs of the date. Slightly more than 500 Proofs were produced, those chiefly distributed with the silver sets of the date. Incidentally, its Proof mintage figure is the lowest in the entire denomination (1865-1889), and is scarcer in Proof than even the low-mintage 1877 Proof-only issue. Tied for finest certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Noticeable raised parallel die lines run from the dentils at the rim, one each through the S, T, and A in STATES, fading in the field before Miss Liberty's portrait.

Extraordinary Gem Proof 1866 Nickel 3¢

NGC Proof-67 Ultra Cameo

None Certified Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 23 **1866 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A sparkling gem cameo in all regards. The devices are heavily frosted and the fields are deeply mirrored, the end result an extraordinary cameo of impressive stature. It is no wonder the present beauty is tied for finest certified by NGC within any designation.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within any designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1867 Nickel 3¢**Tied for Finest Graded by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 24 **1867 Proof-67 (NGC).** An incredibly beautiful coin by any and all standards. The frosted motifs and heavily mirrored fields are bathed with wisps of faint gold and lilac, with a blush of faint sky blue at the centers. An exceptional survivor from a Proof mintage for the date of just over 625 pieces; so exceptional, in fact, that NGC has not certified a finer example of the date than the present beauty within any Proof designation!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Lovely Gem Proof 1868 Nickel 3¢**None Certified Finer by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 25 **1868 Proof-66 (NGC).** A sparkling golden specimen with heavily frosted motifs and mirrored fields, though the cameo contrast is not noted on the holder. An exceptional gem that holds up well under careful scrutiny. One of nearly two dozen examples of the date called Proof-66 by NGC, though no specimen of the date has been accorded a finer Proof grade by that firm.

NGC Census: 22; none finer within the designation.

Impressive Gem Proof 1869 Nickel 3¢**Finest Certified by NGC**

- 26 **1869 Proof-67 (NGC).** A frosty cameo that went unrecognized on the NGC holder. Satiny motifs and mirrored fields display warm lilac and rose toning. A sharp and appealing gem, extraordinary in its physical quality as well as its aesthetic beauty. NGC has not certified a Proof 1869 three-cent piece finer than the present gem within any Proof designation.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Attractive Gem Proof 1870 Nickel 3¢

- 27 **1870 Proof-66 (NGC).** Frosty golden motifs and mirrored fields form a modest yet thoroughly attractive cameo contrast. Add a dash of faint champagne on both sides and the enchanting picture is complete. NGC has seen just one finer specimen than the present coin within the Proof designation.

NGC Census: 14; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67).

Gem Uncirculated 1870 Nickel 3¢**Finest Graded by NGC**

- 28 **1870 MS-67 (NGC).** An exemplary gem Mint State specimen with unyielding lustre that boldly supports bright gold and pale sky blue toning highlights. Crisply struck in all places save for a touch of weakness at the very bottom of Liberty's hair, and at the very tops of the Roman numeral in the reverse denomination. No Mint State 1870 three-cent piece has been certified finer than the present gem by NGC; it stands alone at the top of their *Census*.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Impressive Gem Proof 1871 Nickel 3¢**Tied for Finest Graded by NGC**

- 29 **1871 Proof-67 (NGC).** Another lovely and impressive cameo that is unrecognized by NGC on the holder. Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields exhibit even bright gold toning highlights. Linger a moment or two with this beauty and you too will see why NGC has not certified a finer Proof of the date than the present gem.

NGC Census: 7; none finer within the designation.



- 30 **1871 MS-64 (PCGS).** Frosty pale golden surfaces display strong cartwheel lustre. Struck from lightly clashed dies.



- 31 **1872 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Medium golden gray with light golden highlights. Lightly frosted motifs and somewhat satiny fields display a modest cameo contrast. An attractive specimen, a Proof of the date that is tied for finest certified within any Proof designation by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 15; none finer within any designation.



- 32 **1873 Close 3. Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** A splendid cameo Proof. The frosted motifs and mirrored fields display even smoky golden toning. Close 3 in date, as are all Proofs of the date. Among the top 10 cameo Proofs of the date certified by PCGS. A few faint flecks are noted, chiefly present under low magnification.

PCGS Population: 8; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-67 Cameo).



- 33 **1874 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** A frosty pale golden cameo Proof with delightful splashes of rich orange on and around Liberty's portrait. An impressive gem that ranks among the finest Proofs of the date certified by PCGS; that firm has not certified a finer specimen than the present lovely coin.

PCGS Population: 11; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1875 Nickel 3¢ **Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS**



- 34 **1875 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Sparkling medium silver gray with strong lustre on faintly satiny fields and lightly textured motifs. One of just eight Proofs of the date called Proof-66 by PCGS with no Proofs of the date certified finer within any designation by that firm.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer within any designation.

Centennial Proof 1876 Nickel 3¢ **None Certified Finer by NGC**



- 35 **1876 Proof-67 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and mirrored fields form a modest cameo contrast. Faint gold and rose highlights on both sides add to the quiet beauty of this charming gem. The present speci-

men is one of just two called Proof-67 by NGC, with no other examples of the date certified finer by that firm within any Proof designation!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Impressive Proof-Only 1877 Nickel 3¢ **None Graded Finer by NGC**



- 36 **1877 Proof-67 (NGC).** Frosted motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo contrast, though mention of such is not to be found on the NGC holder. Pale golden toning highlights both sides of this scarce and popular Proof-only issue, a date that saw somewhat more than 510 Proofs struck, but no distribution of circulation strikes was forthcoming for the date. Tied for finest certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 7; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1878 Nickel 3¢ **Popular Proof-Only Issue**



- 37 **1878 Proof-67 (PCGS).** Heavy cameo contrast is present, though PCGS makes no note of such on their holder. Regardless, the frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields display an even sheen of gold with a touch of pale rose here and there. For the record, PCGS has certified just a solitary specimen of this issue finer than the present coin, a fact that speaks volumes about the overall quality of the present beauty!

PCGS Population: 14; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-68).

Superb Gem Proof 1879 Nickel 3¢ **Tied for Finest Graded by NGC**



(2x photo)

- 38 **1879 Proof-68 (NGC).** A splendid gem Proof that displays a wealth of cameo contrast though note of such contrast is nowhere to be found on the NGC holder. All that aside, the satiny, frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields display warm champagne and rose iridescence. Just how fine is the present gem? We note here that NGC has not certified a finer Proof example of this date within any Proof designation!

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

Superlative 1880 Proof-68 Nickel 3¢**Finest Certified by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 39 **1880 Proof-68 (NGC).** An absolutely superlative gem example with pale sky blue highlights on frosty motifs and satiny, somewhat reflective fields. Sharp and appealing in all areas. A diligent search of the surfaces will no doubt cause an attentive viewer to realize just how problem-free this beautiful gem is! Further, the present specimen is the finest Proof example of the date certified by NGC in the Proof designation.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Incredible 1881 Proof Nickel 3¢**None Graded Finer by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 40 **1881 Proof-68 (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display warm golden tones on both sides. A superlative cameo contrast is present, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. Die artifacts noted within the upper and lower loop of each 8 in the date. NGC has not certified a finer Proof example of this date, and a glance (or more) at the present beauty will certainly reveal its splendid quality.

NGC Census: 7; none finer within the designation.

Impressively Toned 1882 Proof Nickel 3¢**Tied for Finest Graded by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 41 **1882 Proof-68 (NGC).** An incredibly lovely gem of the finest order. The frosty motifs and somewhat satiny yet reflective fields

display a wealth of rich rose, sky blue, and pale golden highlights, a bright light source reveals even more shades of colorful toning. Further, this splendid gem is one of four examples of the date called Proof-68 by NGC, with no specimens certified finer by that firm within any Proof designation!

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.



- 42 **1883 Proof-67 (PCGS).** An impressive gem Proof with a high degree of lustre on satiny motifs and somewhat satiny mirrored fields. Faint golden toning on both sides. While slightly more than five dozen 1883 nickel three-cent pieces have been called Proof-67 by PCGS (a figure that no doubt includes more than one resubmission), only four Proof examples of the date have been certified finer than the present gem.

Gorgeous Cameo Proof 1884 Nickel 3¢

- 43 **1884 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Frosted motifs and deep mirrored fields display warm champagne highlights and bold lustre. A sharp and pleasing gem, one of fewer than a dozen Proofs of the date called Proof-67 Cameo or finer by NGC.

NGC Census: 9; 2 finer within the designation (both Proof-68 Cameo).

Visually Stunning Proof 1885 Nickel 3¢**Tied for Finest Proof Certified by NGC**

- 44 **1885 Proof-67 (NGC).** An exceptionally gorgeous cameo Proof, though the cameo notation is not on the NGC holder; perhaps this coin was submitted prior to NGC's use of the "Cameo" designation. Warm golden tones grace the heavily frosted devices and deeply mirrored fields, making for a coin that is, literally, as pretty as the proverbial picture. Indeed, the beauty of the coin is such that it ranks among the finest Proofs of the date certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 21; none finer within the designation.



- 45 **1886 Proof-67 (NGC).** A satiny, lustrous gem of the finest order. Faint sky blue and pale rose iridescence graces the satiny surfaces on both sides, the end result is an exemplary example of this popular Proof-only date. Indeed, just two Proofs of the date have been certified finer than the present gem by NGC.

NGC Census: 29; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ finest).



- 46 **1887/6 Proof-67 (NGC).** A splendid Proof example of this popular overdate, here with the underlying 6 completely visible, along with repunching at the bases of each 8 in the date. Silver gray with frosted motifs and satiny, somewhat reflective fields. A beautiful coin, one that is tied for finest certified within the Proof designation by NGC.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.



- 47 **1887 Proof-65 (PCGS).** A satiny gem Proof of the date, a pleasing coin with pale gold and sky blue iridescence on both sides. Some tiny flecks become apparent under low magnification, though the unaided eye appeal is still quite substantial.



- 48 **1888 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A sparkling gem Proof with heavily frosted silver motifs and deeply mirrored fields. A nuance of faint champagne toning makes this an exceptional example of the date and grade, and a beautiful coin that is tied for finest cameo Proof of the date certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 7; none finer within any designation.



- 49 **1889 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A splendidly beautiful coin, tied for finest cameo Proof certified to date by NGC. Frosted motifs and mirrored fields display a rich array of varying golden hues. An exceptional coin, one that easily meets the requirements, both physical and aesthetic, of the assigned grade. You'll love this one!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

SILVER THREE-CENT PIECES

All silver three-cent photos are 2x.

Important Gem Cameo Proof 1858 Silver 3¢ Finest Graded by PCGS in Any Proof Designation



- 50 **1858 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** An exceptionally attractive Proof 1858 silver three-cent piece, a pale golden gem with frosty motifs and mirrored fields. From an estimated Proof mintage for the date of some 300 pieces, give or take a few; for many years silver Proofs of 1858 were thought to number just 80 pieces, but 300 or so is the presently accepted mintage figure for silver Proofs of the date in all denominations. Meanwhile, back to this lovely gem coin. Its beauty is such that PCGS has not certified a finer Proof example of the date within *any Proof designation!*

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

- 51 **Pair of silver three cent pieces:** ☆ 1860 MS-62 (PCGS). Satiny silver gray with hints of gold ☆ 1862/1 MS-64 (PCGS). Lilac-gray with hints of gold and blue on both surfaces. (Total: 2 pieces)

Richly Toned Gem Proof 1863 Silver 3¢



- 52 **1863 Proof-66 (NGC).** A vividly toned gem with highly reflective fields and moderately frosted motifs. Rich neon blue, gold, and rose dominate, with splashes of orange and faint violet in places. An exceptional gem from a Proof mintage for the date of just 460 pieces, the lowest recorded Proof mintage in the series from 1859 to 1873.

Vibrantly Toned 1866 Proof Silver 3¢



- 53 **1866 Proof-66 (NGC).** A frosted deep rose star and shield at the obverse center swims in a deeply mirrored pool of rich neon blue, while the reverse is adorned with splashes of violet, neon blue, gold, orange, and rose. If you enjoy vividly toned coins, this one's for you! Indeed, just one Proof example of this date has been certified finer than the present gem by NGC. Only 725 Proofs of the date were struck, with the present beauty easily among the finest survivors from that mintage.

NGC Census: 16; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68☆).

Gem Cameo Proof 1869 Silver 3¢



- 54 **1869 Proof-66 Cameo (ICG).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a pale golden contrast on the surfaces of this exciting and undeniably attractive gem Proof. Heavy diagonal die polish lines are noted within the vertical stripes of the obverse shield. Absolutely and undeniably choice for the assigned grade.

Splendid Cameo Proof 1872 Silver 3¢

Finest Cameo Proof Certified by NGC



- 55 **1872 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Frosty motifs and mirrored fields exemplify the meaning of "cameo" Proof. Faint champagne highlights grace both sides of this popular Proof from the penultimate date in the series.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

NICKEL FIVE-CENT PIECES

A complete date run of Proof Shield nickels is about to cross the auction block, including an example of the rare and desirable 1867 With Rays in Proof! As with every other area of the catalogue, the vast majority of these coins are either the finest certified or close to it, and each is remarkable for its intense beauty and lovingly selected quality. The Shield nickels end with a gem MS-65 1883/2 overdate, a vastly underrated issue, especially so in gem grades! A scattering of superb gem Proof Liberty nickels are here as well, and Buffalo nickel highlights include an exemplary gem Proof 1916, the rarest of all Buffalo nickel Proofs, a MS-62 1918/7 overdate rarity, and a gem Uncirculated 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo, the "big three," if you will, of Buffalo nickels.

Gem Proof 1866 Shield Nickel

None Graded Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 56 **1866 Rays. Proof-67 (NGC).** A sparkling gem Proof from the first year of the nickel five-cent series. Frosty motifs and mirrored fields display faint rose and golden iridescence. A popular and rare Proof, one that saw an estimated production run of slightly more than 200 pieces, a low mintage figure by any standards. A lovely gem that is tied for finest certified Proof of the date within any designation by NGC.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

Gem Uncirculated 1866 Shield Nickel

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 57 **1866 Rays. MS-66 (PCGS).** A satiny frosty gem with strong cartwheel lustre and pale golden toning highlights. Numerous faint die cracks abound on the obverse as does a series of large rim cuds from just left of the date to the 8:00 position. A lovely gem, and a coin that is tied for finest graded of the date by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 24; none finer.

Gem Proof 1867 Rays 5¢ Rarity Elusive Low-Mintage Issue



58 **1867 Rays. Proof-65 (PCGS).** A glittering gem Proof with satiny fields and frosted motifs that display even, warm champagne iridescence. One of just 25 or slightly more Proofs of the date struck with the rays design on the reverse, though, interestingly enough, the current *combined* population of this rarity from the two major third-party grading services, PCGS and NGC, reveals a total of 63 *different grading events* for this prized rarity, or a figure that is nearly three times that of the estimated Proof mintage for the type. As with so many other great rarities, optimism inspires collectors and dealers to resubmit rarities, knowing full well that

a single grading point can often mean many thousands of dollars in increased profits or value. As for the present gem, it is of undeniable gem quality. The design devices are sharp and crisp, and the surfaces are free of all marks save for some faint planchet flaws that were present when struck. We note here that, of the numerous examples of this great rarity that have been submitted (or resubmitted, as may be the case) to PCGS for certification, just three Proofs of this great rarity have been certified finer than the present coin by that service.

PCGS Population: 18; 3 finer within the designation (all Proof-66).

Gem Mint State 1867 Rays Shield 5¢ Among Four Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

verse. A beautiful gem survivor from the second (and final) year of the design type with rays on reverse; later in 1867, the rays were removed from the reverse design, remaining thusly until the demise of the series in 1883. One of just four examples of the date called MS-66 or finer by PCGS, and noteworthy as such.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer (MS-67).

59 **1867 Rays. MS-66 (PCGS).** A satiny gem of the finest order. Explosive cartwheel lustre heightens the pale golden toning effects on both sides. Numerous die cracks are noted on the ob-

Gorgeous Proof 1867 No Rays Shield 5¢

NGC Proof-67 Ultra Cameo

Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 60 **1867 No Rays. Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A sparkling beauty, struck later in the year after the rays had been removed from the reverse design. The frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a whisper of faint golden toning. The eye appeal is extraordinary, as is the physical quality. Indeed, NGC no doubt took all of this into account when it certified this lovely gem at the Proof-67 Ultra Cameo level, the only Proof example of the date thus far to garner that coveted grade. Indeed, only two Ultra Cameo Proofs of the date have been certified by NGC, the present specimen being the finer of those two.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.



- 61 **1867 No Rays MS-66 (PCGS).** A frosty and highly lustrous gem with rich rose and gold iridescence on the obverse. Several obverse die cracks are noted, and a triangular reverse rim cud at 7:00 obliterates several dentils in that area. Absolutely choice for the grade; so choice, in fact, that PCGS has not certified a finer Uncirculated example of this date.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.

Splendid Cameo Proof 1868 Shield 5¢

Sole DCAM Certified by PCGS



- 62 **1868 Proof-66 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A simply stupendous gem Proof of the date. Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a nuance of faint rose and gold iridescence. Heavy raised diagonal die lines can be seen in the vertical stripes of the obverse shield. This gem is the *only* Proof example of the date to receive a DCAM certification from PCGS, a fact worth noting when bidding activity begins.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the designation.



- 63 **1868 MS-66 (PCGS).** A satiny gem with explosive cartwheel lustre and a whisper of faint gold on the pale sky blue surfaces. We note that no 1868 Shield nickel has received a finer grade than the present gem from PCGS.

PCGS Population: 19; none finer.

- 64 **1868/68 FS-003.3. MS-64 (NGC).** A splendid example of this interesting issue. The date logotype was punched twice into the working die, showing doubling of the last two digits. Also the date was punched too high and into the decorative ball at the base of the shield. Satiny lustrous surfaces on both sides with lilac toning. An attractive example.

Superb Proof 1869 Shield 5¢

None Graded Finer by NGC



- 65 **1869 Proof-67 (NGC).** A splendid cameo Proof, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. Frosty motifs and mirrored fields display faint lilac toning highlights. Boldly struck from slightly misaligned dies, with the top of the reverse aligned with 11:00 rather than the usual 12:00. One of just a half dozen Proofs of the date to be called Proof-67 by NGC within any Proof designation. Quality personified!

NGC Census: 6; none finer within any designation.

Gem Uncirculated 1869 Shield 5¢

None Graded Finer by PCGS

Rare Doubled Die Obverse



- 66 **1869 MS-66 (PCGS).** A sparkling golden gem with intense cartwheel lustre and deep shades of gold on both sides. Heavily doubled in places on the obverse (see below), the first such specimen seen by the current writer. A "double" delight; not only is the present beautiful gem tied for finest certified of the date by PCGS, but the obverse doubling went unnoticed. An exciting variety in an exciting grade!

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

In *The Shield Five Cent Series* by Edward L. Fletcher, Jr., this elusive variety is identified as F-412. Fletcher's comprehensive reference notes: "Light doubling is seen on IN GOD WE TRUST. Stronger doubling is seen south on the annulet, cross, shield, and the leaves. The vertical lines are seen up to the second lower horizontal line." This reference credits one G. McKelvey with the discovery of this piece. The present writer (FVV) has been cataloguing Shield nickels here in Wolfeboro for some 18 years, yet this beautiful gem is the first example of this particular doubled obverse variety seen. Hopefully it will be as exciting to our bidders as it was to our cataloguer.

Gem Cameo Proof 1870 Nickel



- 67 **1870 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** A sparkling cameo gem with frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. A nuance of faint champagne graces both sides. Numerous raised die polished lines can be seen in the fields, especially on the obverse. Only one cameo Proof has received a finer grade from NGC than the present gem.
NGC Census: 11, 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo).

Lovely Gem Uncirculated 1870 Nickel



- 68 **1870 MS-66 (NGC).** A sparkling pale golden gem with a bold strike and a generous measure of aesthetic appeal. From a highly polished die; the upper right corner of the vertical obverse shield stripes is missing on several of the stripes. The present frosty, lustrous gem is among the half dozen finest examples of the date certified by NGC, a fact that speaks highly of the overall quality.
NGC Census: 5, 1 finer (MS-67★)

Sparkling Cameo Proof 1871 Nickel

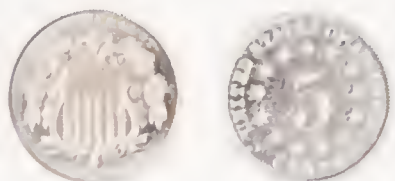
None Graded Finer by NGC



- 69 **1871 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A sparkling gem Proof with frosted motifs and satiny, highly reflective fields. A faint glimmer of pale champagne graces both sides of this delightfully impressive gem. Indeed, this beauty is the finest cameo Proof certified by NGC, a fact that should be carefully considered when forming your bidding plan.
NGC Census: 1, none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1871 Shield 5c

The Eliasberg Specimen



- 70 **1871 Proof-65 (PCGS).** Lightly frosted motifs and satiny, somewhat reflective fields display grand lustre and warm champagne toning highlights. A gem with a nice pedigree.
From Bauer and Merena's sale of the Louis L. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, Part I, May 1996, Lot 758

Lustrous Gem Uncirculated 1871 Nickel

A Low-Mintage Prize

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 71 **1871 MS-66 (PCGS).** A highly lustrous and pleasingly toned gem. The frosty surfaces display rich golden toning on both sides, with a dash of pale violet and electric blue on the reverse. Sharply struck from lightly clashed dies, with full design elements on both sides. An interesting network of obverse die cracks can be seen. One of only 3,400 circulation strikes of the date struck during the waning years of the design type. Always desirable, especially in gem grades. In fact, the present gem is tied for finest certified by PCGS.
PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Impressive Proof 1872 Shield 5c

None Graded Finer by PCGS

Doubled Die Obverse



- 72 **1872 Proof-67 (PCGS).** Lustrous satiny fields and frosted motifs display splashes of warm gold and champagne iridescence. A sharp and attractive gem, one of two such beauties called Proof-67 by PCGS, with no Proofs of the date certified finer than the present coin. Obverse doubling plainest at the cross and annulet at the top of the shield. An attractive specimen in all regards.
PCGS Population: 2; none finer within the designation.
Breen-2492, "1872 doubled obverse die. Two varieties. Very scarce. Note crisscrossing shield lines (azure and gules) and double annulet below cross."

Gem Uncirculated 1872 Shield 5c

Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 73 **1872 MS-66 (PCGS).** A sharply struck gem with intense lustre and pale champagne highlights on frosty surfaces. Some faint obverse die cracks are seen, and low magnification reveals some faint flecks. A lustrous gem that will be widely appreciated by interested bidders.
PCGS Population: 9; none finer

Impressive Gem Cameo Proof 1873 Shield 5¢ Tied for Finest Graded by NGC



- 74 **1873 Close 3. Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Bright and lively steel gray mirrors surround frosty silver gray motifs. A bold and nicely presented Proof of the Close 3 variety, the only date logotype for Proofs of the year. No Proof of the date has been certified finer than the present specimen by NGC within any designation!

NGC Census: 3; none finer within any designation.

Gem Mint State 1874 Shield Nickel Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 77 **1874 MS-66 (PCGS).** A sparkling silver gray specimen with a rich wealth of pale gold and rose iridescence on both sides. The unyielding lustre greatly highlights the boldness of strike, adding to the overall eye appeal. Undeniably choice, and among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Gem Mint State 1873 Shield Nickel Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS Close 3



- 75 **1873 Close 3. MS-66 (PCGS).** A lustrous satiny gem with wisps of rich golden iridescence on both sides. Crisp and sharp design elements are the order on this fine gem, and the 3 in the date closely resembles an 8. No example of this date has been certified finer than the present gem by PCGS (see below).

PCGS Population: 5; none finer for the Open 3 variety.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer for the Close 3 variety.

The present coin is in an unattributed holder (as to Open 3 or Close 3), yet the current *Population Report* found on the PCGS website does not list a category for coins in unattributed holders, only categories for the Open 3 and Close 3 varieties (as well as a Large 3 over Small 3 variety, for which no MS-66 or finer specimens have been recorded). Regardless of what method of reporting the PCGS website uses, the present gem has not been exceeded in grade by any other circulation strike 1873 Shield nickel.

Lovely Gem Cameo Proof 1875 Nickel None Certified Finer by PCGS



- 78 **1875 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** Satiny, frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display even shades of pale gold and rose. A boldly struck gem that holds up well under careful scrutiny. No finer example of the date has been certified within any Proof designation by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer within any designation.

Lustrous Gem Uncirculated 1875 Shield 5¢ Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 79 **1875 MS-66 (PCGS).** Sparkling, satiny silver gray with rich champagne highlights and bold underlying lustre. An attractive gem with a bold strike present in all areas, save for a hint of weakness at the very top of the obverse shield; all the horizontal lines there are complete, though only faintly represented in tiny areas. Regardless, the present satiny gem is among the finest Uncirculated examples of the date certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

Exceptional Gem Proof 1874 Shield 5¢ None Certified Finer by PCGS



- 76 **1874 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A lovely silver gray specimen with a whisper of faint golden toning and strong lustre on satiny, somewhat reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs. A beautiful gem in all regards, and among the finest Proofs of the date certified by PCGS within any designation.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer within any designation.

Impressive Gem Proof 1876 Shield 5¢**None Graded Finer by PCGS**

- 80 **1876 Proof-67 Cameo (PCGS).** Deeply mirrored fields and modestly frosted motifs form a pleasing cameo on the pale golden surfaces of this impressive gem Shield nickel. A lovely survivor from our nation's Centennial year, a beautiful coin that is among the three finest Proofs of the date certified by PCGS within any Proof designation. How's that for quality?

PCGS Population: 3; none finer within any designation.

Splendid Gem Mint State 1876 Nickel**Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS**

- 81 **1876 MS-66 (PCGS).** A bright and lustrous gem with richly intermingled splashes of pale sky blue, pale rose, and faint violet. Struck from a heavily shattered obverse die; the reverse die is not far behind. Among the half dozen finest Mint State examples of the date seen thus far by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.

Superb Gem Proof-Only 1877 Nickel**Tied for Finest Certified by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 82 **1877 Proof-67 (NGC).** A superb gem Proof of absolutely eye-catching and impressively stunning beauty! The deeply mirrored fields and frosted motifs are bathed in even medium gold and faint rose highlights. The contrast is such that the obverse devices seemingly lie on top of a sea of liquid champagne. As if extraordinary eye appeal was not enough, the present gem is tied for finest Proof certified by NGC, a distinct and high tribute to its overall beauty.

NGC Census: 5; none finer within the designation.

Gorgeous Proof-Only 1878 Shield Nickel**None Graded Finer by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 83 **1878 Proof-67 (NGC).** Varying shades of electric gold grace the frosty motifs and satiny, mirror fields on this outstanding gem Shield nickel, a date that was produced only in the Proof format without attendant circulation strikes. Careful examination under low magnification reveals a few faint flecks, though the unaided eye is challenged to find any surface disturbance on this beautiful gem. For the record, NGC has not certified a finer example of the date than the present specimen.

NGC Census: 17; none finer within any designation.

Incredible 1879/8 Proof Shield Nickel**Among the Finest Certified by PCGS**

(2x photo)

- 84 **1879/8 Proof-68 (PCGS).** An absolutely visually stunning gem of the finest order. The frosty, sharp motifs (especially on the obverse) seemingly hover above the outstanding satiny, somewhat reflective surfaces. Diagnostic spur upward from viewer's right side of lower ball on shield, numeral traces beneath the existing 9 in the date. All told, a stunning gem that has been bettered in the PCGS population roster by just one specimen (and what a beauty that one must be!). Absolutely one of the finest Shield nickels of any date the present writer has encountered in recent memory.

PCGS Population: 6; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-69).

Splendid Gem Proof 1879 Shield 5¢**Finest Certified Within Any Designation by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 85 **1879 Proof-68 (NGC).** Deep steel gray mirrors and moderately frosted devices form a strong cameo contrast, though such is unrecognized on the NGC holder. A visually stunning beauty with faint rose and sky blue highlights that fairly leap from the immaculate surfaces. One long, attentive examination of this beauty will reveal exactly why it is the finest 1879 Proof Shield nickel certified by NGC within any designation!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Delightful Gem Proof 1880 Shield 5¢**Finest Proof Certified by NGC****Vivid Pastel Rainbow Toning**

(2x photo)

- 87 **1880 Proof-68 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo, though the designation was not picked up by NGC. Wisps of faint violet, fiery peach, gold, and sky blue come to the fore in bursts of pale pastel rainbow brilliance. A stunning gem. This is the solitary Proof-68 1880 Shield nickel listed in NGC's *Census*.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Lustrous Gem Uncirculated 1879 Shield 5¢**None Certified Finer by PCGS**

- 86 **1879 MS-66 (PCGS).** Brisk, sultry lustre spins languidly beneath rich gold and pale rose iridescence. A satiny gem with an overall look that easily stands up to the rigors of the MS-66 grade. From a modest circulation strike mintage of just 25,900 pieces, from the era when Shield nickel circulation strike mintages were plummeting dramatically from the records set a decade or so earlier. Small wonder the present gem is among the finest examples of the date certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 14; none finer.

Gem Uncirculated 1880 Shield 5¢**Low-Mintage Rarity****Tied for Finest Graded by NGC**

(2x photo)

- 88 **1880 MS-65 (NGC).** Satiny, frosty pale golden surfaces display a wealth of underlying lustre, as well as a bold strike and a great deal of aesthetic appeal. Traces of another numeral present within the loops of the second 8 in the date. From a small circulation strike mintage for the date of just 16,000 pieces. Amazingly, only 17 examples of the date have been certified thus far by NGC, with only six of those called Mint State! The present coin is one of just two examples of this rare date called MS-65 by NGC, with no specimen certified finer by that firm.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

Outstanding Gem Cameo Proof 1881 Nickel



- 89 **1881 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Deeply reflective silver fields support frosty silver gray motifs. A whisper of faint gold adds to the visual charm. Just one Proof of this date has been certified finer than the present gem by NGC, that coin a Proof-67 Cameo with the addition of NGC's coveted "★" designation.

NGC Census: 16; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67★ Cameo).

Gem Uncirculated 1881 Shield Nickel

None Certified Finer by PCGS



- 90 **1881 MS-67 (PCGS).** A satiny pale golden gem with intense cart-wheel lustre and bursts of richer gold on both sides. Boldly struck, an undisputable gem that holds up well to careful, intense scrutiny. Fewer than a half dozen 1881 Shield nickels have been certified MS-67 by PCGS, and the present beauty is one of those!

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.

Gem Proof 1882 Shield Nickel



- 91 **1882 Proof-67 (NGC).** Pale champagne iridescence gathers brightly on the frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields, presenting a lively cameo contrast that was not recognized by the NGC graders. A sharp and attractive gem from the penultimate year of the design type. Fewer than a half dozen Proofs of the date have been certified finer than the present gem by NGC, a fact that should alert you to the quality that awaits you when you view this beautiful Shield nickel.

NGC Census: 34; 4 finer within the designation (all Proof-68).

Superb Mint State 1882 Shield 5¢

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 92 **1882 MS-67 (PCGS).** A satiny gem with broadly sweeping cart-wheel lustre that highlights the engaging pale violet and rich champagne toning. Repunching noted within the final three date numerals. An outstanding gem, a coin that easily measures up to the "tied for finest certified" mantle at PCGS.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Important 1883/2 Shield Nickel

An Unsung Rarity



- 93 **1883/2 Shield. FS-013.1. Breen-2525. MS-65 (NGC).** Highly lustrous silver gray with splashes of rich golden toning on both sides. A prominent obverse die crack extends downward from the lowermost leaf to the rim at 4:00. An unsung rarity, a date that is far, far more elusive than current literature or collecting habits indicate. Indeed, within any grade from G-4 right up to gem quality, this overdate variety is *rare!* There are several varieties of Shield nickels that are often mistaken for the overdate, the most guilty of these varieties being an 1882 die with a filled 2 in the date. The present coin is, however, easily the most prominent of the several 1883/2 varieties recorded, with bold remnants of all four underlying numerals still plain in the die. The underlying 2 is unmistakable in its position between the second 8 and the 3 in the date. As for its elusive nature at the gem level, NGC has certified just three examples of this prized rarity at MS-65, as here, or finer, "or finer" represented by a solitary piece at the MS-66 level. Undeniably rare, and worthy of serious bidding consideration when it crosses the auction block.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer (MS-66).

Splendid Proof 1883 Shield 5¢

Finest Certified Within Any Designation by NGC
Terminal Date of the Design Type



(2x photo)

- 94 **1883 Shield. Proof-68 (NGC).** A lovely silver gray gem with mirrored fields and frosted motifs that display wisps of faint gold and pale violet. A nice cameo effect is present, though NGC has overlooked that fact. An extraordinary gem Proof of the date, a superlative coin that easily warrants the assigned grade; careful scrutiny only tends to cement its claim to near-perfection.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Exciting Gem Uncirculated 1883 Shield 5¢

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



- 95 **1883 Shield. MS-67 (PCGS).** A satiny, frosty, and superbly lustrous gem with whispers of faint blue and vibrant gold on both sides. The strike is superb despite the fact that both obverse and reverse dies exhibit heavy die cracks. One of fewer than 10 examples of this terminal date in the Shield nickel series called MS-67 by PCGS, with none certified finer.

PCGS Population: 9; none finer.

- 96 **1892 Proof-65 (NGC).** Faint rose and gold iridescence on lustrous reflective surfaces.

Impressive Proof 1901 Liberty 5¢



(2x photo)

- 97 **1901 Proof-68 (NGC).** Frosted motifs and satiny, reflective fields form a modest cameo contrast. Faint lilac toning highlights both sides, while pale baby blue iridescence graces the reverse. The underlying lustre sweeps broadly on the surfaces, which lends credence to the "super" grade assigned the present gem. Indeed, this lovely specimen is among the three finest examples of the date seen by NGC within any Proof designation.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within any designation (both Proof-68★).



- 98 **1904 Proof-67 (NGC).** An impressive gem Proof with bursts of rich rose and baby blue iridescence on both sides, especially in Miss Liberty's tresses. Fewer than a dozen Proof examples of the date have attained the lofty grade assigned to this coin by NGC.

NGC Census: 10; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-67★).

Extraordinary Proof 1906 Liberty Nickel

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 99 **1906 Proof-68 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields form an intense cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. Miss Liberty springs to life with bursts of bright gold and peach iridescence, while the reverse is adorned with an even sheen of pale iridescent baby blue. Simply superb both aesthetically and physically, and sure to please any serious devotee of the series. Careful examination will certainly reveal why no finer Proof example of the date has been certified to date by NGC.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

Stunning Gem Proof 1909 Liberty 5¢

None Graded Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 100 1909 Proof-68 (NGC).** Another unsung cameo Proof from NGC. The heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a strong contrast despite the lack of recognition. Rich rose, pale lilac, peach, and gold adorn both sides, enhancing the bold strike and cameo contrast. Additionally, the present coin is just one of a half dozen Proofs of the date called Proof-68 by NGC, with no finer Proofs recognized by that firm.

NGC Census: 6; none finer within the designation.

- 101 Half dozen certified Buffalo nickels:** ☆ 1915-D MS-63 (NGC). Lustrous with bright golden orange toning on both surfaces ☆ 1931-S MS-65 (NGC) Bright and lustrous golden orange surfaces ☆ 1936-S MS-63 (PCI). Lustrous and attractive golden surfaces ☆ 1937 MS-66 (NGC). Brilliant and lustrous golden surfaces ☆ 1937-S MS-66 (NGC). Lustrous rose-gray with hints of sky blue ☆ 1938-D MS-67 (NGC). Lustrous golden orange surfaces. (Total: 6 pieces)

Exemplary Gem Proof 1916 Buffalo 5¢

Rarest Proof of the Series



(2x photo)

- 102 1916 Proof-68 (ICG).** A satiny, vividly toned gem Proof of the date, the final such Proof issue in the series until 1936, and far and away the rarest of the early Proofs in the series (1913-1916). Just 600 Proofs of the date were struck, with its nearest competitor in the low-mintage sweepstakes being the 1915 issue, of which 450 more pieces were struck. The obverse center is lustrous silver gray with rich iridescent rainbow highlights gathering at the rims, while the reverse sports various shades of peach and gold converging to a brilliant golden center. Sharply struck and visually appealing, with all of the fine details that James Earle Fraser envisioned prominently presented. Finally, the present gem is absolute proof that gorgeous, exciting coins come in *all* third-party service holders.

Lustrous Uncirculated 1918/7-D Buffalo 5¢



(2x photo)

- 103 1918/7-D MS-62 (PCGS).** Highly lustrous golden gray surfaces with splashes of pale rose and gold. Diagnostic horizontal die break across Indian's cheek on the obverse, as seen on all genuine examples of this rare and desirable overdate. Die stress, appearing here as flowing, raised lines, can be seen on both sides, mainly around chief devices. Lightly struck at the centers, as is the "norm" for this popular issue. Always desirable in *any* grade that allows the overdate features to be plainly discerned; in select Mint State as here, the sky is virtually the limit for interested bidders. We suggest that interested parties take full advantage of the opportunity afforded here, as Uncirculated examples of this prized rarity come few and far between, even in today's active hustle-bustle numismatic marketplace.

Outstanding 3-Legged 1937-D Buffalo 5¢



(2x photo)

- 104 1937-D 3-Legged. FS-020.2. MS-65 (NGC).** A bright, satiny gem with strong lustre, rich golden toning, and a strike that is considerably finer than frequently seen for this rare and popular variety. Arguably one of the most popular of all U.S. "error" coins, especially in gem grade. Even careful scrutiny under low magnification won't allow us an opportunity to dispute the grade of this exciting gem. It is easily as nice as virtually any MS-65 example of the variety that has ever come under our glass, and we heartily encourage strong bidding activity when it crosses the auction block.



- 105 1937-D 3-Legged. VF-35 (ANACS).** A definite "collector's edition" of this popular variety, here in a pleasing, moderately circulated grade that will do justice to any Buffalo nickel collection. In short, a highly affordable and highly attractive example.

HALF DIMES

Extraordinary highlights among half dimes include a gem MS-65 1794, a choice MS-64 1795, both joined by suitable circulated specimens of 1797 and 1801. A gem MS-66 1835 is present to represent the design type, followed by an amazing group of gem Mint State and Proof Liberty Seated

half dimes. Mint State pieces include a nice 1837 No Stars in MS-67, a MS-66 1843, and gem Proofs of 1858, 1859, and a solid date run of gorgeous gem Proofs that runs straight through to the demise of the denomination in 1873, most of which are the finest certified examples of the date! If these tiny little silver "nickels" are your cup of tea, we have more than enough here to overflow your cup!

Exceptional 1794 Half Dime MS-65 (NGC)



- 106 **1794 Logan McCloskey-3, Valentine-3. Rarity-4. MS-65 (NGC).** A simply exquisite specimen of the first Flowing Hair half dime, beautifully toned, well struck, and of genuine gem quality. Both obverse and reverse show full lustre, the obverse toned mostly pale blue with silvery and violet tones at center, the reverse exhibits golden and pale violet toning with pale blue at the rims. Exceptionally detailed, the bottom hair lock is actually better defined than the similar Eliasberg coin that Breen called a Specimen! The fields are lightly reflective and each detail from hair strand and breast feather out to the crisp denticles is well showcased. A single tiny nick under the point of the bust will identify this piece

for those who attempt to assemble a true Condition Census listing for the variety, and magnification reveals only a tiny circular flaw on the cheek. The die state is more advanced than the Eliasberg coin, with two heavy reverse die cracks from the rim at 4:00 and 5:30 joining at the eagle's tail and the same obverse crack behind Liberty's head. This piece is a joy to behold and boasts eye appeal as nice as any we can imagine. Inclusion of a coin like this in your cabinet is the hallmark of a great collection.

NGC Census: 3; 2 finer (MS-66). A single additional specimen has been certified Specimen-65 by NGC, perhaps the Eliasberg specimen of the LM-2 variety.

Choice Mint State 1795 LM-3

Rarity-5



(2x photo)

- 107 **1795 LM-3, V-2. Rarity-5. MS-64 (NGC).** A superb example of this elusive variety, and likely one of the finest known from these rare dies. Highly lustrous surfaces show abundant and beautiful toning—mostly gold at the rims, with a mixture of pale blue and green in the fields and contrasting silvery devices. The fields are somewhat reflective, and the devices are boldly rendered throughout. Most denticles are also well struck, lending excellent eye appeal to this well-produced coin. Some adjustment marks may be seen at the extreme reverse periphery, mostly over UNITED but barely visible within the denticles elsewhere. This obverse die is easily identified by the bold, nearly vertical bisecting die crack, probably the flaw that caused the rarity of this variety. The LM book notes the Eliasberg specimen as the finest seen, graded MS-63 at the time. That example, like most specimens of the variety, showed some light weakness at the southwest quadrant of the obverse periphery. While this specimen also is a bit weak in that area, it is better defined in that region and the lowest curls than the Eliasberg coin and also shows a better strike at the reverse periphery. While ranking coins in a Condition Census can really only be done by coin-on-coin comparison (ranking coins based on photos, or even on certification numbers can be a fool's errand), we expect this coin is at least the rival of the Eliasberg piece and probably finer, especially considering the better strike and the beautiful old toning. An exquisite specimen of this variety, one certain to be appreciated by specialists in the early half dime series.

The NGC Census lists only one coin explicitly attributed as LM-3, a coin graded AU-58.



(2x photo)

- 108 **1797 LM-1, V-2. Rarity-3. 15 Stars. F-15 (PCGS).** A very pleasing circulated example of this popular issue. Silvery gray with some darker pewter gray toning on devices and a ring of attractive green and amber tones at the rims. Scattered marks, including a dig under L of LIBERTY, somewhat soft on eagle as expected for this issue, a bit of granularity at central obverse. An undamaged and attractive specimen of this issue, one that many collectors choose to place in a type set.

Appealing 1801 Half Dime



(2x photo)

- 109 **1801 LM-2, V-2. Rarity-4. VF-35 (PCGS).** Bright silver gray with some darker toning around the obverse periphery, while the reverse is principally brilliant with a light golden tone. Very sharp and well-detailed for the grade, good central strike, a touch of weakness at base of reverse. Both sides show some hairlines, more notable on the obverse. A very popular date, particularly so at this grade level which offers excellent detail and eye appeal at a value still within the reach of many collectors.

Gem 1835 Half Dime



(2x photo)

- 110 **1835 LM-10, V-7. Rarity-1. Small Date, Small 5C. MS-66 (NGC).** Brilliant frosty silver gray with abundant satiny lustre. A lovely specimen with immaculate fields and the eye appeal of a brand new coin. Some softness of strike in the usual areas, like the eagle's head and the wing left of the shield, but not to an uncommon extent. A tiny speck at the tip of the bust is the only flaw we can detect under magnification. A stellar and exceptionally preserved type coin.

Exceptional Gem 1837 No Stars 5¢



(2x photo)

- 111 **1837 Large Date. MS-67 (PCGS).** A beautiful example of this popular type coin, tied for finest certified by PCGS. Nearly brilliant surfaces show just a trace of subtle champagne toning, but both sides show abundant and exceptional satiny lustre. Frosty and every bit as attractive as the grade would indicate, with a fine strike and no marks of note. The wide expanse of the obverse field shows no distractions to draw the eye away from the miniaturized reduced-

tion of Gobrecht's design. These dies show a die crack from rim into the rock below Liberty's foot, and three short die cracks from rim to the tops of A, M, and R of AMERICA. An important issue for a type collector, and we suspect that a specimen this fine will provoke excitement when it is sold.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Gem Mint State 1843 Half Dime

None Graded Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 112 **1843 MS-66 (NGC).** A frosty gem with strong lustre, a deep and bold strike, and with rich golden highlights at the peripheries. Of the more than 1.1 million 1843 half dimes struck, you won't find a finer surviving specimen than the present gem, at least not in an NGC holder. Indeed, the lustrous gem offered here is one of fewer than 10 examples of the date accorded the MS-66 grade by NGC.

NGC Census: 8; none finer.

- 113 Pair of Liberty Seated half dimes grading MS-63: ☆ 1852 (PCGS). Bluish gray and rose intermingled on both obverse and reverse ☆ 1871 (PCI). Lustrous with splashes of delicate rose. (Total: 2 pieces)

Gem Cameo Proof 1858 Half Dime

Finest Cameo Proof Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 114 **1858 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Frosty motifs, mirrored fields, a bold, crisp strike, and faint golden toning—in short, all the things necessary for a gem Proof are present in this attractive gem. A popular date, and once considered a classic rarity. Conventional wisdom for more than a century had been that just 80 Proof 1858 silver dollars had been struck, and similar numbers had been bandied about for the Proof half dimes, dimes, quarters, and half dollars of the same date. Conventional wisdom today places the actual number of Proofs produced of the silver denominations in 1858 at around 300 or so, based on current availability of specimens. Speaking of available specimens, the present coin is the finest of just two Proof 1858 half dimes given a Cameo designation by NGC!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Gem Cameo Proof 1859 Half Dime



(2x photo)

- 115 **1859 Proof-67 Cameo (ICG).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields glow brightly with pale champagne and peach highlights evenly distributed on both sides. Essentially a one-year-only design type, credit for the design laid at the feet of Anthony Paquet. Liberty here appears to be thinner, more alert, and much younger. The centers of the surrounding stars are hollow, and various folds of drapery have been altered, especially those at Liberty's elbow. Of course, other minor differences could be pointed out, but for now, suffice it to say that Paquet's design type is distinctly different from that of 1858 and earlier, or for that matter, that of 1860 and later. The date is repunched at the bottom of the numerals, another diagnostic for genuine 1859 Proof half dimes. Perhaps the most popular saying in today's collecting circles is "buy the coin, not the holder," and the present beautiful gem is living testimony to that statement! This coin will say "Proof-67 CAM" to any potential bidder who cares to take a glance.

Gem Cameo Proof 1862 Half Dime

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 116 **1862 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Frosty silver motifs lie serenely against deep silver fields. A nuance of faint gold graces the peripheries. A sharply struck cameo gem survivor from the Proof mintage for the date of 550 pieces. In fact, the present coin is one of just five examples of the date called Proof-67 Cameo by NGC, with no Proof 1862 half dime certified finer by that firm within any Proof designation.

NGC Census: 5; none finer within any designation.

Visually Stunning 1863 Cameo Proof Half Dime

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 117 **1863 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Frosted motifs and mirror fields form a distinct and heavy cameo contrast, particularly on the reverse. Broadly repunched 1 in date. Faint champagne toning on both sides enhances the overall attractiveness of this sharply struck gem. Only 460 half dimes were struck in the Proof format in 1863, that production figure the lowest Proof half dime mintage from 1860 to the demise of the denomination in 1873. A splendid coin that has one peer in the NGC *Census*, and none better within any Proof designation from that firm.

NGC *Census*: 2; none finer within any designation.

Superb Cameo Proof 1864 Half Dime

Finest Seen by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 118 **1864 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** A stunning little silver Proof with an amazing pale golden cameo that immediately captures the viewer's eye. The devices are heavily frosted and the fields are deeply mirrored forming an unbeatable visual treat. Absolutely as fine as can be imagined for the assigned grade, and easily among the finest Proofs of the date extant anywhere. Just 470 specimens were struck during this Civil War year, of which the present beauty is among the three finest Cameo Proofs certified by PCGS.

PCGS *Population*: 3; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1866 Half Dime

Sole PCGS DCAM of the Date



(2x photo)

- 119 **1866 Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display varying depths of attractive

champagne iridescence. Some scattered reverse flecks are noted among the wreath details, but the overall appeal is still substantial for the assigned grade. The present gem is the *only* Proof representative of the date to be called DCAM by PCGS, a noteworthy attraction in and of itself. The present coin affords potential bidders the opportunity to obtain not only a good looking coin, but one that has the distinction of currently being the only one of its kind in a PCGS holder.

PCGS *Population*: 1; none finer.

Brilliant Cameo Proof 1867 Half Dime

NGC Proof-67 Cameo

Tied for Finest Proof Cameo by NGC



(2x photo)

- 120 **1867 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted design motifs stand boldly out from deep silver mirror surfaces. A blush of faint gold enhances both sides. A truly lovely gem survivor from a Proof mintage for the date of just 625 pieces; indeed, the present coin is currently tied for finest Proof Cameo of the date certified by NGC. Scarce and beautiful, an unbeatable combination.

NGC *Census*: 2; none finer within the designation.

Richly Toned Proof 1868 Half Dime

PCGS Proof-67

Tied for Finest Seen by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 121 **1868 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A deep golden Proof with rich pale electric blue, gold, and peach on the obverse, with a generous amount of lilac iridescence thrown into the same mix on the reverse. Sharp and appealing, a delightfully toned gem survivor from a Proof mintage for the date of 625 pieces. Though cameo contrast is not noted anywhere on the PCGS holder, a glance through the lovely, natural toning highlights on this beautiful gem reveals a frosty nature to the motifs and a deep mirror nature to the fields. You won't find a finer Proof 1868 half dime within any Proof designation in a PCGS holder.

PCGS *Population*: 2; none finer within any designation.

Impressive Gem Cameo Proof 1869 Half Dime

Finest Certified by NGC

Proof-68 Cameo



(2x photo)

- 122 **1869 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display intense lustre and a faint whisper of pale gold. A sharply struck and thoroughly dazzling gem survivor from a Proof production run for the date of just 600 pieces. Heavy, raised die polish lines crisscross the reverse field, affording an insight into the die production techniques of the 19th-century Philadelphia Mint. Absolutely stunning for its aesthetic appearance and physical quality as well. The finest Proof example of the date certified by NGC *within any designation*, and deservedly so, as one glance will no doubt prove.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Frosty Cameo Proof 1870 Half Dime

NGC Proof-68 Cameo

Finest Graded by NGC in Any Designation



(2x photo)

- 123 **1870 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a nuance of faint gold, particularly at the rims. Possessed of a superb strike and eye appeal to match, the present gem easily meets the requirements of the lofty assigned grade. As for other coins that have met the special requirements of the grade, there are none in NGC holders! This gem stands alone at the top of every category in the NGC *Census*; Proof, Cameo, or Deep Cameo.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.



(2x photo)

- 124 **1871 Proof-65 Cameo (PCGS).** A delightfully attractive cameo Proof with heavily frosted motifs, deeply mirrored fields, and eye

appeal that is more than substantial for the assigned grade. The strike is bold, and a nuance of faint champagne toning increases the visual desirability. Among the five finest cameo Proofs of the date certified by PCGS, and worthy of serious consideration as such.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer within the designation (both Proof-66 Cameo).

Struck from a rusted obverse die, with Miss Liberty's torso having a granular, rough appearance, and with a constellation of small, tiny raised dots around Liberty's head.

Amazingly Nice Proof 1872 Half Dime

NGC Proof-68 Ultra Cameo

Finest Proof of the Date Seen by NGC



(2x photo)

- 125 **1872 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** The frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields are near the zenith of beauty among cameo Proofs. Every design detail is crisp and bold, and the eye appeal measures up to the assigned grade admirably. Regarding the assigned grade, the present gorgeous gem is the only 1872-dated half dime accorded the Proof-68 Ultra Cameo designation by NGC. Further, it is the *finest* Proof 1872 half dime certified by NGC *within any Proof designation*.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Swan Song 1873 Proof Half Dime

None Graded Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 126 **1873 Proof-67 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a strong cameo, though such is not noted on the NGC holder. Splashes of warm golden toning grace both sides, with delightful highlights in the reverse wreath. One of just 600 Proofs struck in the final year of the denomination, and always welcome in any collection as such. A truly glorious little silver half dime, one that is among the finest Proofs of the date certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 9; none finer within the designation.

DIMES

It is often the case that an *opportunity* is more important than the price paid. When superb quality matches high assigned numerical grades, all bets can be off when it comes to auction competition. In the present sale we have a remarkable selection of high-quality Proof coins, with emphasis on Liberty Seated issues. Among dimes the selection is extensive, including key early issues, the ever-popular With Arrows 1873 and 1874 dates, and more, continuing through the 1880s, then into the Barber series. The last specialty is particularly fascinating as Barber dimes, as well as quarters and half dollars, furnish a compact run, dates from 1892 to 1915, all scarce to rare, but none "impossible" or out of reach. As we note here and again among our cataloging comments, today in 2005 the market for Barber Proof coins, while intense, is at levels that are just a fraction of figures registered during the height of the investment market in 1979 and 1980. The coins themselves are the same, it is just the prices are much less. That said, if building a date run of Liberty Seated or Barber issues is in your game plan, the present sale is incredible for its quality. Although we expect a great deal of competition, even if records are set for the *present market* it is likely that the buys will be excellent in comparison to figures of a few years back. We invite you to consider the possibility.

Attractive VF 1796 Dime



- 127 1796 John Reich-1. Rarity-3. VF-20 (ANACS). Deep silver gray with lovely blue and rose overtones and lighter silver shades on the devices. Very attractive for the grade and level of circulation, with only minor scattered marks and a thin scratch from star 5 to the back of Liberty's head. A horizontal natural planchet flaw is noted between Liberty's forehead and star 9. Late die state, as often seen, with a large die break at star 1. An eternally popular coin as the first regular issue dime and one of only two dates with the small eagle reverse.

Mint State 1807 Dime



(2x photo)

- 128 1807 JR-1. Rarity-2. MS-64 (ICG). Attractive pearlescent pewter gray, an attractive shade, with good lustre on both sides. Very sharp for the issue, even though this piece shows many of the die clashes so often seen, but with no substantial loss of definition at either center or periphery, just some minor weakness at UNI. Subtle adjustment marks may be seen at Liberty's shoulder and star 1, obverse hairlines noted. A desirable and detailed example of the date.

Boldly Lustrous 1827 Dime MS-65 (NGC)



(2x photo)

- 129 1827 JR-5. Rarity-3. MS-65 (NGC). Brilliant silver gray with abundant lustre on both sides. Frosty and appealing, somewhat reflective in the fields, no marks or significant flaws. Well struck, even at central reverse. A few tiny spots are noted near OF atop the reverse, another tiny speck on the edge of Liberty's drapery. An elusive variety in higher grades, the JR book notes that the variety is "difficult to find above VF-30" and notes the R.L. Miles coin, graded MS-60 in the book, as finest known. Unfortunately, the JR book lists that coin as Lot 130 in the Miles sale (Lot 130 is an 1809 large cent) and the single 1827 dime in the April, 1969 Miles sale has neither a photograph nor a die variety description, which makes us question the veracity of the information presented in the book on this variety. None this fine are reported in the JRCS census, and we suspect this coin ranks within the Condition Census for the variety. The Logan coin was an EF. An important opportunity for Capped Bust dime collectors, or an advantageous opportunity to purchase a high-grade type coin that offers something extra. Only five have been graded finer by NGC.

Extraordinary Gem Uncirculated 1830 Dime
Prooflike, Vividly Toned
Tied for Finest of the Date Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 130 1830 JR-5. Rarity-2. Medium 10C. MS-67 (PCGS).** Frosted motifs and reflective fields exhibit intense gold, violet, orange, and crimson on the obverse, while the reverse displays heavy orange and gold at the centers that give way to halos of bright neon blue and sea green at the rim. A thoroughly enchanting example of a readily available variety, though “readily available” certainly doesn’t apply in condition like this! The John Reich reference on early dimes notes that the “finest seen” JR-5 1830 dime was called MS-60, strongly suggesting that this piece deserves a place at the top of the Condition Census or very near to it. Simply put, a superlative combination of eye appeal and quality are the hallmarks for this beautiful gem.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer.

Exquisite Gem 1831 Dime



(2x photo)

- 131 1831 JR-3. Rarity-1. MS-67 (NGC).** A frosty delight, brilliant silver gray with all the satiny lustre that was in place when this piece left the Mint. The strike is very nice, showing good detail at centers, and the eye appeal is as nice as one would suspect for a coin in this grade. While not a rare variety, with many specimens known in lower Mint State grades, at this level a specimen takes on importance as one of the very best extant. This would make a stellar addition to a type set.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer (MS-68).

Gem Proof 1835 Dime
JR-4, Probably Rarity-7 as Proof



(2x photo)

- 132 1835 JR-4. Rarity-7 as a Proof. Proof-65 (NGC).** Satiny, modestly frosted motifs float languidly on reflective mirrored fields, both sides adrift in pale golden tones. One of a very limited quantity of the date struck in the Proof format, probably struck to the tune of 20 or fewer pieces all told. Regardless, the handful of Proof 1835 Capped Bust dimes extant are all of the JR-4 variety. Curiously, the John Reich early dime reference notes that Walter Breen once described a reverse for Proof dimes of the date that differs from anything seen by the authors of that tome; not so, as careful reading reveals that Breen’s description of the reverse and the authors of the reference’s description are precisely the same, simply told in different words, right down to the die line that connects the tip of the bottommost reverse arrow to the dentil opposite it! Proofs of any Capped Bust denomination—half dimes, dimes, quarters, or half dollars—are all greatly prized rarities regardless of date. Breen listed only three confirmed with a few more “seen,” a statistic echoed in the Norweb catalogue where this variety in Proof was called Rarity-8. We suspect the present gem will elicit more than just casual bidding activity when it crosses the auction block.

NGC Census: 3; 2 finer (both Proof-66).

Gem Proof 1837 Large Date Liberty Seated 10c
Fortin-101, Rarity-7 as Proof



(2x photo)

- 133 1837 No Stars. Large Date. Proof-65 (NGC).** A sharply struck gem with mirrored fields and lightly frosted motifs that are imbued with deep gunmetal-blue, fiery rose, and rich violet iridescence on both sides. Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins 1722-1977* gives an estimated Proof mintage of "30," noting they were struck June 30, 1837. The quantity of Proof survivors of the date known to today's collectors fits neatly with Breen's reported estimate. An undeniably appealing Proof from the first year of Liberty Seated dime coinage, without surrounding stars on the obverse, imparting a delightful jewelry-like cameo appearance. The present gem is among the six finest Proofs of the date certified to date by NGC.

NGC Census: 1; 5 finer (Proof-67 finest)

Fortin-101, called Rarity-7 in Proof at Gerry Fortin's seateddimevarieties.com website

Gem Mint State 1837 Large Date, No Stars 10c
Andre Dawson Collection



(2x photo)

- 134 1837 No Stars. Large Date. MS-66 (NGC).** A frosty gem with strong underlying lustre that supports even medium champagne toning highlights. A sharply struck example from the first year of Christian Gobrecht's design type, which lasted exactly one year at the Philadelphia Mint; in 1838 stars appeared on the obverse though the dies sent to New Orleans in 1838 were of the No Stars persuasion—it wasn't until 1839 that our southernmost mint produced dimes with obverse stars. From the celebrated Andre Dawson Collection, a well-known professional baseball player who also managed to assemble a fine cabinet of high-power rarities in the 1980s. Just a half dozen examples of the date have been certified finer than the present gem by NGC.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer (MS-68 finest)

Fortin-101, Rarity-2. Breen-17 in date repunched. 1 die crack from rim at 4 o'clock.

Described by Liberty as "one of the most beautiful coins of the date." The slightly misaligned

From the Andre Dawson Collection

Exceptional Gem Uncirculated 1838 Dime
Large Stars
Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 135 1838 Large Stars. MS-68 (NGC).** A frosty, satiny gem of the finest order. Intense cartwheel lustre rolls languidly beneath faint champagne highlights. Boldly struck and impressively presented, with every fine design detail brought up to its fullest. Absolutely gorgeous for the assigned grade, and far and away the finest example of the date certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 1; none finer.

F-111, Rarity-4. Obverse die crack from dentils beneath Liberty's foot, progressing diagonally upward across her legs and torso, terminating in this early state at her shoulder clasp. Additionally, a heavy crisscross thatch of raised die lines can be seen in and around the bow on the reverse.

Gem Proof 1855 Arrows Dime
Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 136 1855 Arrows. Proof-65 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with violet and gunmetal-blue highlights on reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs. Date numerals and arrowheads broadly repunched, a notable diagnostics for the rare Proofs of the date. Current estimates suggest that perhaps just 12 to 15 examples of this prize rarity in the dime series are known to today's collectors, with the presently offered specimen standing solo at the Proof-65 level, with no examples of the date certified finer by PCGS! Sharp and appealing, and easily worthy of persistent bidding—we suspect nothing less will bring this treasure home!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

F-101, High Rarity-6. Date and arrows repunched.

Gem Proof 1856 Dime



(2x photo)

- 137 1856 Proof-65 Cameo (PCGS).** Principally brilliant silver gray with even and deeply reflective fields. The devices show some frost, particularly on the reverse, with definitive design detail and excellent eye appeal. Carefully handled since its mintage, showing a few scant hairlines but no significant flaws. A few tiny planchet flakes are present, as struck and commonly seen on Proofs of this era, with one below star 11 and one each over O and N of ONE serving as excellent future identifiers. A little gem that is a joy to behold. Any Proof from before 1858 may be considered rare, struck before the explosion of popularity of coin collecting that the Mint capitalized upon by offering Proof sets directly to collectors. Only a small cadre of dedicated numismatists gathered Proofs before that date, leaving us to wonder which antebellum enthusiast once carefully preserved this dime. A Proof type collector could include this example in his or her set with pride.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within designation.

F-101, Rarity-7. Doubling noted at shield and LIBERTY.

Gorgeous Proof 1859 Dime

NGC Proof-66 Ultra Cameo

Among Three Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 139 1859 Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A heavily frosted portrait of Liberty immediately captures the viewer's attention, which then no doubt spreads to the remarkably deep and reflective mirrored fields. Faint champagne highlights on the reverse enhance the visual effect there as well. Sharp and bold, and about as lovely as one can expect in a dime of the era. From a Proof mintage for the date of 800 pieces. One of the three finest examples of the date given the Ultra Cameo designation by NGC, a remarkable feat by itself. If your tastes are at all similar to that of the present writer, we imagine you will fall quickly and deeply for this one!

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Ultra Cameo finest).

F-101, Rarity-4.

Impressive Cameo Proof 1858 Dime

Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 138 1858 Proof-65 Cameo (PCGS).** Frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a faint wash of bold champagne iridescence. From an aggressively polished state of the obverse die with a hollow mirror surface between Liberty's pole arm and torso. From an estimated Proof mintage for the date of around 300 pieces, though a couple of decades ago a knowledgeable collector would probably have told you that just 80 or so examples were ever struck; for this date, however, research and common sense have won out. The present gem is the sole example of the date called Proof-65 Cameo, with none certified finer within the Cameo designation by that firm.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-5. Diagnostic diagonal die line on reverse from rim to M in AMERICA.

Outstanding Proof 1860 Dime

Among Four Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 140 1860 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** A simply superb cameo Proof dime in all regards. The strike is bold, the eye appeal is outstanding, and the cameo contrast is second to none. Heavily frosted motifs and deep mirrored fields display a nuance of faint gold on the obverse, with a hint of deepening gold on the reverse. All things considered, a coin that is undeniably worthy of the assigned grade.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Cameo).

F-101, Rarity-3. Horizontal die polish lines in the vertical stripes on the lower half of Miss Liberty's shield.

Superb Cameo Proof 1863 Dime Among the Top Three Finest Seen by NGC



(2x photo)

- 141 1863 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A visually stunning dime that practically screams gem! The devices are heavily frosted and the mirrored fields approach what is commonly referred to as "black" depth. The reverse has a faint nuance of pale champagne toning. A gloriously lovely Proof survivor from a scant mintage for the date of just 460 pieces, the lowest recorded Proof mintage in the series after 1858. Though NGC has certified one example of this date at a finer grade level (Proof-68★ Cameo), we still find it difficult to imagine that *any* Proof 1863-dated dime could be finer than the present specimen; we may be biased, however, for we have the coin here in front of us. Take a good look at this one, and then enjoy the bidding competition.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Cameo).

F-101, Low Rarity-4. Gerry Fortin's website, seateddimevarieties.com, notes that once the 460 Proofs of this date were struck from these dies, the dies were then pressed into service and used to produce the 11,000 circulation strikes of the date.

Gorgeous Proof 1864 Dime Among Three Finest Seen by NGC



(2x photo)

- 142 1864 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Pale champagne surfaces exhibit heavily frosted motifs and mirrored fields. The present gem is just about as nice as the day it was made, and is dynamic in its appeal. A rare date from an interesting point in American history, and the piece bears an exceptionally high grading number combined with superb eye appeal. Among Liberty Seated dimes the issues in and around 1864 are highly prized, for the circulation strike mintages are so low. Proofs exist, as here, but their mintage numbers are also quite small. If this date is on your want list, your search ends here!

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within any designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

F-102, Rarity-5. Reverse die of 1863.

Key 1866 Liberty Seated Dime Cameo Proof



- 143 1866 Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A chiefly brilliant specimen with deep mirrored surfaces and frosty devices that glow with faint champagne lustre. An exceptionally high-quality example of the key 1866 date. Dimes of this year are elusive in any and all grades; witness the valuation of \$300 assigned by the *Guide Book of United States Coins* to one worn nearly smooth, Good-4. Today, the standard market price of Proofs is quite reasonable, in our opinion. With a date such as 1866 there is a double desirability—a basic key issue in combination with a coin that is rare in its own right as a Proof. One of only two DCAM Proof examples of the date certified by PCGS in any grade.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

F-102, Rarity-3. Repunching at base of 1 in date.



- 144 1869 Proof-65 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** The surfaces are fully brilliant with frosted devices and mirror fields that show just a faint whisper of pale champagne. A lovely specimen, a gem that has properly earned the Proof-65 designation, if not a tad finer, but even more important, is beautiful to gaze upon. Ideal for a type set or to illustrate the date in a specialized collection.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

F-106, Rarity-5. Long Flag 1 in date, broken first S in STATES.



- 145 1870 Proof-65 (NGC).** Brilliant with a hint of champagne toning. Mirror fields with frosty devices. Another piece of handpicked quality. Few coins designated as Proof-65 have this much eye appeal.

F-103, Rarity-5. Reverse die crack at bottom of wreath.

Gorgeous Proof 1871 Dime



- 146 1871 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Here we go again—a brilliant, beautiful specimen with deep mirror fields, frosty devices, and everything else nice. Among existing dimes of this date, you can match the quality of this specimen only infrequently at best.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66★ Cameo finest).

Similar to Fortin-103, but without doubling at OF AME on the obverse; perhaps a later die state.

Superb Gem Proof 1872 Dime



(2x photo)

- 147 **1872 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful, the very definition of what a gem Proof dime should look like, but often does not! Heavily cameo like in appearance, though PCGS did not designate this gem as such. Another numismatic treasure, although the market price of Proofs at this level is not particularly high, at least not in comparison to what it was a generation ago.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

F-103, Rarity-3.

- 148 **Pair of Liberty Seated dimes:** ☆ 1873 No Arrows, Closed 3. Proof-61 (PCGS). Reflective with golden orange and blue at the peripheries ☆ 1876 Doubled Die Reverse. Type I Reverse. MS-61 (ANACS). Lustrous centers, rich reddish brown changing to sea green at the peripheries. (Total: 2 pieces)

Essential 1873 Proof Dime

Arrows at Date



(2x photo)

- 149 **1873 Arrows. Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Both obverse and reverse are brilliant, with mirror fields and frosty devices. This lovely dime, or else one dated 1874, is essential for inclusion in a Proof type set—to illustrate the short-lived type with arrows at date. The present piece will satisfy the desire for a coin of truly exceptional quality. Interestingly, the arrowheads at the date are out of alignment, often the case with the various issues having arrowheads (1853 to 1855, and 1873 and 1874). In the present instance the left arrowhead is high and the right arrowhead is low.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

F-102, Rarity-4. Die defects on Liberty's leg.

Lovely 1874 With Arrows Proof Dime

Extraordinary Gem



(2x photo)

- 150 **1874 Arrows. Proof-66 (NGC).** A lovely piece, brilliant on both sides, with mirrored surfaces set against frosty devices. Interestingly, when viewed at an angle to the light, there are a few little "puddles" of Proof surface here and there at the lower part of the seated figure, including, believe it or not, within some of the shield stripes. Again the arrowheads are misaligned with the one on the left pointing slightly upward and the one on the right pointing at a significantly greater angle upward.

NGC Census: 14; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-67 finest).

F-unlisted. No repunching at 4 in date, die lumps on Liberty's arm and face, but not the bottom of her neck as on another similar variety.

Highest NGC-Graded 1875 Proof Dime

NGC Cameo Proof-67



(2x photo)

- 151 **1875 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with a hint of champagne toning, mirrored surfaces with frosty devices. Some areas of Proof finish are seen in Liberty's seated figure, similar to the 1874 Proof.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-3. Late die state, no repunching shows at 1 and 5 of date. Prominent die line at first T in STATES, diagnostic remnants of errant O in reverse denomination in field at upper left of that letter.

Gem 1876 Centennial Proof Dime

NGC Cameo Proof-66



(2x photo)

- 152 **1876 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Mirror fields and frosty devices display a nuance of light golden toning. A splendid specimen from our nation's Centennial year, a gem Proof of which no finer has been graded within this particular NGC designation.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-4.

The obverse die is rather curious, and instead of being basined is bulged slightly outward. The polishing of the die, although complete, is somewhat irregular, and here and there several curious "islands" or raised areas are seen, including between A and T (STATES) and at the base of the Liberty Seated figure, including the tops of the first two digits in the date. The Proof field itself is further curious as it has some little irregularities visible under high-power magnification, not quite the equivalent of the "orange peel" fields so popular on gold Proofs, but of sufficient interest that if studying Proofs is your forte, you may want to spend some time with this during lot examination. The practice of preparing Proof dies varied over the years, sometimes considerably. Differences are not widely noted in the literature, but are interesting to observe.

Cameo Proof 1878 Dime

Solo Finest NGC Coin



(2x photo)

- 153 **1878 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Both obverse and reverse are mainly brilliant with a touch of warm gold at the rims. This is the only piece graded with this designation and number by NGC, with no competition in sight. The devices are in frosty contrast. Under magnification both dies are seen to have been very carefully prepared at the mint. During the polishing process the field was ground down considerably, resulting in the letters being fully formed but quite a bit lighter, and with wider spacing than on the preceding 1876 Proof. If it is of interest, during the lot viewing process examine both coins side by side and this will be obvious.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-3. Fype II reverse, E in ONE distant from wheat.

Key Date 1879 Dime

Finest Graded



(2x photo)

- 154 **1879 Proof-67 Cameo (PCGS).** A lovely specimen with one other certification *event* at PCGS meriting this combination of grading number and "Cameo" adjective. Brilliant and attractive, mirror fields with frosty surfaces. The 1879 dime is a key date apart from the Proof series, a situation that places additional demand upon Proofs. Related are the 1880 and 1881, also key dates.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within any designation.

F-102, Rarity-3.

Memorable Gem 1879 Dime

Superb Mint State



(2x photo)

- 155 **1879 MS-68 (NGC).** A memorable gem specimen, a breathtakingly beautiful Mint State coin. The fields are lustrous, with some hint of prooflike surface, and are accented with splashes of magenta and blue. The coin is as pristine as it can be.

The present coin offers a splendid opportunity for the Liberty Seated specialist who correctly views circulation strikes and Proofs to be *different formats* of coinage. Notable gems of each format are offered here.

NGC Census: 3; none finer.

F-104a, Rarity-4. Repunched 18 in date.

Important Cameo Proof 1880 Dime

Solo Finest Graded



(2x photo)

- 156 **1880 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Here we go again—the finest of the fine, the nicest of the nice—a glittering gem that stands alone at the top of the NGC grading pyramid. Fully brilliant with a hint of faint gold at the rims. This is the only example of the date designated as Proof-68 Cameo by this firm. When mentioning such things we also point out that PCGS has graded some very nice 1880 dimes, ANACS has as well, and although it does not publish population reports, we wouldn't be surprised if some pleasing examples have been viewed by ICG. However, putting them all together, whatever they may be, we dare say that the present piece will not be exceeded by any others, and probably not even matched for the combination of high grading number and the all important aspect of eye appeal.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

Breathtaking Gem 1882 Dime

Remarkable Proof 68 Cameo



(2x photo)

- 158 **1882 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful with heavy cameo contrast, and notably worthy of every accolade that can be applied. None have been designated finer by NGC and only two other events (not necessarily different coins) have been noted.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

Superb Gem Proof 1883 Dime



(2x photo)

- 159 **1883 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful with a splash of faint gold at the rims, and with cameo contrast that is both exciting and beautiful. As nice as it was the day it was minted. This is the solo finest graded by NGC at this level and designation—no others in sight!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

Splendid 1881 Liberty Seated Dime

Superb Gem Proof



(2x photo)

- 157 **1881 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, brilliant with delicate champagne toning, nicely struck, and with frosted devices against mirrored fields. There's not much else that could be desired, except, perhaps a higher grading number such as 68, 69, or 70. With interpretations inching up in the market, as they seem to be doing, perhaps this piece will be graded higher at a later date. Who knows? The coin itself will not change, of course. A marvelous opportunity for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

Splendid Gem Proof 1884 Dime



(2x photo)

- 160 **1884 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Another splendid coin, a piece that challenges perfection. Gorgeous well-struck devices are frosty and set against deep mirror fields. A gem example with eye appeal to match.

NGC Census: 7; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67★ Cameo finest).

Finest Proof 1885 Dime

Solo PCGS Designation

Breathtaking Beauty



(2x photo)

- 161 **1885 Proof-68 (PCGS)**. Dynamic iridescent rainbow toning glows richly on superbly struck devices and reflective fields, with a central point of brilliance on the obverse at Liberty's upper torso. Although this coin comes with the highest number ever assigned to an 1885 Liberty Seated dime by the highly esteemed PCGS, to us this does not seem as important as viewing the coin itself—at which point will be revealed a stunning, spectacular specimen. If you are building a type set of coins and want a "trophy" centerpiece, and also a piece that you can show to your friends and watch them lift their eyebrows in amazement, check this memorable one!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-3

Magnetic 1886 Proof Dime

(2x photo)

- 162 **1886 Proof-67 (PCGS)**. Brilliant with a hint of golden toning. Mirror surfaces are slightly satiny as well. Frosted devices. A coin with a magnetic attraction—to see it is to want to draw it closer and to own it! Actually, the same could be said for just about every other Proof dime in this section of the catalogue—gathered with care, one by one, by a connoisseur. Just about any example would be a highlight if in a normal sale. To have dozens of memorable gems across different silver series is almost unheard of.

PCGS Population: 17; 4 finer within any designation

F-103, Rarity-3

Top Population 1887 Dime

(2x photo)

- 163 **1887 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC)**. Another lovely Liberty Seated dime that checks in at the top of the NGC population listing. None higher have been certified, and only three events are registered at this level. A lovely example, fully brilliant, one that will satisfy in every way.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

Finest 1888 Proof Dime

Solo PCGS at this Level



(2x photo)

- 164 **1888 Proof-67 Cameo (PCGS)**. A brilliant, beautiful example of the 1888 Liberty Seated dime, standing all by itself at the top of the PCGS records as the only dime of the date designated as Proof-67 with cameo contrast. Another splendid item from a connoisseur to a connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

F-101, Rarity-4. Light die crack at date.

Marvelous Proof 1889 Dime

High in the NGC Census



(2x photo)

- 165 **1889 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC)**. Another coin, marvelous in every way, with frosted devices, deep mirrored fields, a nice strike, and a nuance of faint champagne. An exemplary gem Proof from the waning years of the design type.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer (Proof-68)

F-101, Rarity-4

Incredible 1890 Proof Dime

None Finer Graded



(2x photo)

- 166 **1890 Proof-68 (NGC).** Splendidly frosted motifs and richly mirrored fields with a touch of pale gold at the rims. Standing at the top of the NGC *Census*, this Proof-68 is one of only three bearing this description, with none higher. Perhaps in this sale it could be said that the otherwise rare is *common* here. However, this is not so. The coins themselves are each individually desirable, each individually rare. The opportunity itself is rare as well.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within any designation.

F-103, Rarity-4.

Superb Mint State 1890 Dime



- 167 **1890 MS-67 (NGC).** Both obverse and reverse are deeply frosty, with iridescent toning, including magenta and blue, that comes to life courtesy of the unyielding underlying lustre. A change of pace; this coin is not a Proof, but rather checks in as a superb Mint State coin at an exceptionally high level—indeed, one of the finest graded by NGC.

NGC Census: 7; 1 finer (MS-68).

F-120, Rarity-2.

Finest Proof 1891 Dime

Solo NGC Graded



(2x photo)

- 168 **1891 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** They don't get any nicer than this, and no other is as fine—at least within the NGC designation of Proof-67 Ultra Cameo. The coin is lovely to behold, with especially frosty designs and deep mirror surfaces that yield a hint of champagne toning. With this date the Liberty Seated dime series comes to a close.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

F-101, Rarity-3.

World-Class 1892 Proof Dime

Top NGC Population



- 169 **1892 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Sharply struck with frosty designs, deep mirror fields, and with the barest hint of faint gold. A splendid Proof example of the first year of Barber dime coinage, a coin of world-class quality representing this long-lived design (which extended until 1916, but Proofs only until 1915). No finer has been certified by NGC, although it does have a few peers at this designation. Examined very carefully, as we like to do, the piece is found to be satisfactory in every way.

NGC Census: 9; none finer within any designation.

By 1891 there had been many complaints in the popular as well as numismatic press about the Liberty Seated design. It was viewed as unartistic and trite, interesting to think about today as we all dearly love the motif, but back then it furnished a target for complaints. Indeed, at any given time in American history, current motifs attracted a lot of negative remarks. There are exceptions, but not many.

An effort was made to solicit designs from the private sector for new silver coins, excepting the "Morgan" dollar, which had been in use only since 1878 and was not a candidate for replacement (policy was that 25 years should elapse between major changes). Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber prepared a Liberty Head design, and in 1891 patterns were struck across the silver denominations—dime, quarter, and half dollar. These were not distributed to the numismatic community, but a set was given to the Mint Collection (today it resides in the Smithsonian Institution).

In 1892 the Barber or Liberty Head design made its appearance in circulation. It does not seem to have attracted much attention, was not an object of great notice in the public press, and relatively few were hoarded. No doubt this was because of the World's Columbian Exposition, for which America's first commemorative silver coins were about to be struck, the 1892 Columbian half dollar. The press covered the commemoratives in great detail, with popular articles about their creation, trying to find a proper portrait of Christopher Columbus, and more. Great excitement. No doubt the "ordinary" Barber dimes, quarters, and half dollars were handily eclipsed.

Numismatists did not take much notice of them either. Remarkably, during the span in which Barber coins were produced, collectors and dealers were not motivated to discuss their desirability, the rarity of various Proof or circulation strike issues, or anything else. Among a number of book projects in the pipeline for Whitman by the present writer (QDB) is one on Barber silver coins. Normally, a lot of interesting editorial material would be on hand to lend spice—as, indeed, was the case when a detailed study on Morgan silver dollars was prepared in 1993 (included in a two-volume set, *Silver Dollars and Trade Dollars of the United States: A Complete Encyclopedia*). In fact, so many clippings and news articles exist that today it would be easy to churn out a book of several hundred pages with such notices—really!

Barber coins are interesting to collect. With regard to the dime denomination offered in this section of the catalogue, Proofs were made of each date 1892 through 1915. The quantities were never large, and today all can be considered to be scarce or rare. Although it is not possible to know precisely how many exist, likely 80% to 85% or so still survive. The majority have been cleaned in one way or another, show hairlines, or have other problems. With reference to pristine gems, the population narrows considerably, and the term *very rare* is certainly appropriate in the context of the demand for them.

Picturesque Proof 1893 Dime Artistic Gem



(2x photo)

- 170 **1893 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant centers give way to imposing halos of rich gold, fiery crimson, and neon blue toward the rims. The devices are frosted and the fields are mirrored. A lovely Proof example, with just three certification *events* reported by NGC. That is great, of course, but this piece has more, much more. It is one of the most "scenic," "artistic," and simply nice to look at pieces we have ever seen for *any* date in the Barber dime series. This coin may be dangerous to look at—dangerous to your finances, that is! Check it out!

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Fantastic Proof 1894 Dime Top Population Quality



(2x photo)

- 171 **1894 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Fully brilliant save for a whisper of gold at the rims. One of just two certification *events* at NGC at this level and description. The beauty of this piece is sufficient that it would be difficult to imagine that any could be nicer.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

Important 1895 Proof Dime Key Proof Date



- 172 **1895 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Largely brilliant with frosty design devices and mirror fields. The 1895 is perhaps the single most desirable Proof date in the series, not because Proofs themselves are rarer than others—as they are not—but in circulation strike form the 1895 is seldom seen in high grades. A great deal of extra demand has been placed upon choice Proofs such as that offered here.

NGC Census: 4; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

Cameo Gem Proof 1896 Dime



- 173 **1896 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, and everything else nice, including a touch of faint champagne iridescence and a position high in the NGC *Census*. To see the Proof Barber dimes in this sale is to want to collect them. Over a long period of years we have reviewed and sold many Proofs, ranging from singles to sets, but we have never had a finer group than those in the present sale. Quite a statement, we think!

NGC Census: 6; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

Marvelous Gem 1897 Dime



(2x photo)

- 174 **1897 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliantly beautiful with heavy cameo contrast and a nuance of faint gold. Another lovely and memorable coin, a gem Proof that ranks among the four finest examples of the date within the Cameo designation seen thus far by NGC.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Cameo finest).

Iridescent Gem 1897 Dime NGC Mint State-67 Tied for Finest Seen by NGC



(2x photo)

- 175 **1897 MS-67 (NGC).** The present gem Uncirculated dime is well struck and very attractive, possessing a splendid iridescence on both sides; the hues are varied, but mainly heather, magenta, and blue. Remarkably prooflike in appearance. A lovely Barber dime, with no examples of the date graded finer by NGC.

NGC Census: 5; none finer.

This particular coin exhibits a light die crack at the tops of OF, a heavier die crack at the tops of RIC, and a heavy cud that connects the top of the 7 in the date to Liberty's neck.

Frosty Gem Proof 1898 Dime



(2x photo)

- 176 **1898 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** As is true of most other Proofs from the connoisseur's consignment in the present catalogue, this piece has it all. However, this coin seems to have an especially bold degree of frost on the portrait, rendering the cameo effect even more spectacular. Brilliant and beautiful.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within any designation.

Stunning 1899 Proof Dime



- 177 **1899 Proof-67 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Another memorable dime, standing tall as none have been graded finer by PCGS. Even more important it is a treat to the eye—as nice as we have ever seen. Brilliant on both sides with just a whisper of patination.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer within the designation.

Impressive Gem Proof 1900 Dime

Atop the NGC Census



(2x photo)

- 178 **1900 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Just two 1900-dated dimes have been certified by NGC at this level with none finer. Whether this represents two different specimens is something for conjecture but, in any event, it is very rare. The piece is brilliant on both sides with just a faint blush of pale gold and, as might be expected from being included in this sequence, is satisfying in every way.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Incredible Gem Proof 1901 Dime



(2x photo)

- 179 **1901 Proof-68 Cameo (ICG).** Brilliant, beautiful, and of extraordinary grade, with a hint of iridescent gold at the borders.



- 180 **1902 Proof-65 (NGC).** A splendid Proof with delicate golden toning over deep mirror surfaces. The obverse field is highly basined, in interesting contrast to the procedure used the preceding year. Under this process a die is rotated in a shallow container with an abrasive, gradually imparting a curve, much as an amateur might make a telescope lens of glass. The process is delineated in some detail in Dave Bowers' *The Official Red Book of Morgan Silver Dollars*. The basining of a Proof die varies from issue to issue and is hardly standard. On this particular dime the reverse is not basined at all but is completely plane or flat. This piece is splendid in its aspect and is deeply mirrorlike with a whisper of toning. In this year the portrait of Miss Liberty was polished in the die, very noticeable in the higher denominations, but not as much on the smaller coins as here. This characteristic applies to all Proofs within a given date and denomination.

Superb Gem Proof 1903 Dime



- 181 **1903 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A lovely Proof, brilliant on both sides, with basined obverse (but not as much as the preceding year) and plane reverse. Portrait lightly polished in the dies, more than on the previously offered 1902. A simply gorgeous Proof, standing all by itself at the top of the NGC roster, the only one given this grade and description.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Wonderful Proof 1904 Dime



- 182 **1904 Proof-66 (NGC).** Another great Proof. Brilliant on both sides and a dynamic coin that we suspect will leave standard Proof-66 valuations far behind.

Incredible Gem Proof 1905 Dime



(2x photo)

- 183 **1905 Proof-68 Cameo (ICG).** Brilliant, beautiful, and everything else nice. Certified by ICG, this may be the finest that has passed under the watch of that group of graders out in Colorado. As ICG does not publish population reports, such questions remain a mystery. However, this piece stands high among any and all 1905 Proof Barber dimes in existence. Add this to your collection, and you will never look at a 1905 dime listing again.

Gorgeous 1906 Proof Dime



- 184 **1906 Proof-66 (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, gorgeous, lovely, and everything else. Frosty contrast against deep mirror fields. As nice as can be.

Pleasing Proof 1908 Dime



- 185 **1908 Proof-65 (NGC).** A gem specimen, brilliant with deep mirror fields and contrasting devices. Although this is not at the top of the population report, we expect that in a test in which the grade is masked on the holder, this piece might outmaneuver a Proof-66 or Proof-67 in terms of eye appeal.

Splendid Gem 1909 Proof Dime



- 186 **1909 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, brilliant with a whisper of toning, this piece ranks as one of the nicest ever to be viewed by the expert graders at PCGS, way out in Santa Ana, California. Desirable in every respect.

PCGS Population: 19; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-68).

Exceptional 1910 Proof Dime



- 187 **1910 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with a hint of champagne (Louis Roderer Cristal) toning. Frosty surfaces. Absolutely gorgeous.

NGC Census: 3; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

Louis Roderer, French champagne maker of history, was an interesting individual—one of the most famous book collectors of all time, his accomplishments being well recorded in the annals of that particular pursuit. In a numismatic connection, the Cristal champagne produced by Roderer's descendants was used in a toast by Dwight Manley, president of the California Gold Marketing Group, at a private banquet held at one of San Francisco's finest hotels. The duty of one particular waiter was to circle the tables and provide the champagne on demand.

Lest someone get the wrong idea, while Louis Roderer Cristal is fine on special occasions, particularly if someone else is treating, here at home in Wolfeboro the writer enjoys what seems to be a "secret find" among domestic champagnes, Tott's. By consuming Tott's at less than \$10 per bottle, over a period of time it might be possible to buy one of these nice Barber dimes.

Enough of whimsy, back to numismatics. . . .

Gorgeous Gem Proof 1911 Dime



(2x photo)

- 188 **1911 Proof-68 Deep Cameo (ICG).** Brilliant and beautiful, the very definition of a superb Proof of this date or, for that matter, the entire Barber dime series. Again we note that we can't know how many ICG has seen at this level, but we would not be surprised if this turned out to be the one and only.

Top Population 1912 Proof Dime



(2x photo)

- 189 **1912 Proof-68 (NGC).** Ranking at the very top of the NGC roster this dime is of exceptional numerical grade. Beyond that it is going to attract quite a few bidders who enjoy coins with superb iridescent toning. This coin is literally a numismatic rainbow as a quick examination will reveal. Gorgeous!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation

Solo Finest 1913 Proof Dime

Tops at NGC



(2x photo)

- 190 1913 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful with frosty designs, letters, and numerals against a deep mirrored field. The one and only NGC coin with this grade number and "cameo" adjective. A grand coin, a grand opportunity. In viewing all of these it is almost too bad that the chronology of the Barber dime series is coming to an end. What a treat it has been to inspect each and every one.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Exceptional Proof 1914 Dime



- 191 1914 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** An exceptional specimen, brilliant with a hint of champagne (we won't specify the brand) toning. A gorgeous specimen that will delight its next owner.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.



- 192 1915 Proof-66 (PCGS).** Here is the swan song, the last presentation in the Proof Barber dime series. The coin is gorgeous in all respects, again with champagne toning and again with marvelous eye appeal. Our congratulations in advance to its next owner.

PCGS Population: 3; 8 finer within any designation (Proof-67 finest).

- 193 Trio of certified Mercury dimes:** ☆ 1916 MS-65 FB (NGC). Frosted golden mottling at the devices ☆ 1916-S MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous with traces of delicate gold ☆ 1943-D MS-66 FRB (HALLMARK). Lustrous with just a hint of delicate gold. (Total: 3 pieces)

Gem Uncirculated 1916-D Mercury 10¢

MS-65 FB NGC



(2x photo)

- 194 1916-D Mercury. MS-65 FB (NGC).** A satiny lustrous gem with a pale wash of faint rose and champagne on both sides. Sharply and boldly struck, with eye appeal that easily matches the assigned grade. A pleasing gem specimen of what may be the most desirable rarity in the 20th-century dime series.

NGC Census: 21; 8 finer within the designation (MS-67 FB finest).

TWENTY-CENT PIECES

The silver twenty-cent series is the shortest-lived denomination in American coinage. Launched with high hopes in 1875, destined for circulation in the American West, it was thought by Senator Jones of Nevada, chief proponent of the authorizing legislation, that this would be a boon in commerce, facilitating the making of change in business transactions. The initial coinage was generous, primarily at the San Francisco Mint. Routinely, Proofs were made at Philadelphia for collectors. At the time there was no call for such pieces in the East or Midwest, as silver coins were trading at a premium in relation to paper money and had not been seen in circulation since the spring of 1862.

In San Francisco and elsewhere people soon confused the new twenty-cent pieces with the somewhat similarly sized Liberty Seated quarters. It was soon realized that a mistake had been made, and mintage figures dropped precipitately in 1876, with many of those pieces being melted, including the majority struck at Carson City that year. Proofs continued to be made for collectors in 1876, and also in 1877 and 1878, by which time no circulation strikes were being minted.

We are pleased to offer a complete set of Proofs, individually, one of each date 1875 through 1878, the last two being particularly notable for their exceptional eye appeal, as described under the individual lots.

Superb Cameo Proof 1875 20¢



(2x photo)

- 195 **1875 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A blazingly beautiful cameo gem Proof from the first year of this short-lived denomination. Frosty, boldly struck central motifs display faint champagne toning that bursts outward into concentric rings of deep tobacco gold, gun-metal-blue, and violet. A lovely gem survivor from a Proof mintage of 2,790 pieces, many of which have succumbed to the ravages of time and ill-handling. The present beauty is among the three finest Proof examples of the issue certified to date by NGC; just a "★" designation separates the present coin from the "finest" certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within any designation (Proof-67 Cameo★).

Gem Cameo Proof 1876 20¢

Tied for Finest Ultra Cameo
Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 196 **1876 Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Satiny, lustrous mirrored fields with heavily frosted motifs. A nuance of faint rose graces both sides. A sharply struck and aesthetically appealing gem Proof from the second year of this denomination. From a Proof mintage for the date of 1,260 pieces, a figure that denotes ready availability in today's marketplace. While readily available in most Proof grades, once the gem Proof level is reached, the population dwindles dramatically, at least where NGC is concerned. Indeed, the present gem is one of just two called Proof-66 Ultra Cameo by that firm, with none certified finer within the Ultra Cameo designation. Indeed, just four Ultra Cameo Proofs of the date have been certified in any Proof grade by NGC.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

Memorable Gem 1877 20¢



(2x photo)

- 197 **1877 Proof-66 Cameo (ICG).** Sharply struck, brilliant, and with delicate champagne toning. A simply incredible example; not one in 10 or 20 Proofs are this nice. The vast majority are either hairlined, artificially toned, or somewhat blotchy, or a combination of these. Why Proofs of this date, and also 1878, should be difficult to find in high quality while Proofs of 1875 and 1876 are often seen "nice," is somewhat of a mystery. As to how many examples ICG has certified at this level, we know not, but we doubt if any surpass this in combination of high grading number and memorable eye appeal.

Under high magnification a delicate die crack can be seen through the bases of 877, then extending downward to the center of a dentil.

Exceptional Quality 1878 20¢



(2x photo)

- 198 **1878 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** As noted under our description of the 1877, the 1878 Proof is difficult to find with pleasing eye appeal. Most have problems of some kind or another. Not this piece, as it is well struck, brilliant, deeply mirrored on both sides, and has a hint of champagne toning—fit for the finest collection anywhere.

NGC Census: 6; 8 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

QUARTER DOLLARS

Among quarters of the 19th and early 20th centuries we present a connoisseur's consignment of Proofs—not just Proofs in the ordinary sense, but nearly all of exceptional quality. Superb gem Proofs are the rule, not the exception! Often the pieces are either the finest graded by NGC or PCGS, or are high Condition Census. While there is a great passion for numbers in today's market, in our view such aspects as eye appeal and overall quality can be even more important. In the present consignment, like as not a given gem Proof will carry a very high grade and also be one of the most beautiful ever to come on the market. As we noted in our introduction to dimes, and have mentioned in later comments, the opportunity to acquire a combination of such quality and high grading numbers may be more important than the price paid. During the cataloguing of this consignment we were impressed, indeed overwhelmed, with the remarkable beauty of these Proofs.

Choice Prooflike Uncirculated 1796 Quarter
A Popular Rarity



199 1796 Browning-2. Rarity-5. MS-64 (NGC). A landmark example of this ever-popular first year of issue for the United States quarter, a one-year type featuring the small eagle reverse. The surfaces are almost completely brilliant silver, save for soft golden brown toning on some of the obverse high points, in the field before Miss Liberty's face, and on the reverse rim above the A in STATES. Careful study reveals a few minor handling marks, most notable among them being a short scratch on the neck (well hidden), and a couple of minor ones in the fields of both sides. However, these are commensurate with what one would expect at this grade level. The obverse shows three small adjustment marks which are fine and fortuitously located at the central portrait such that they are essentially invisible to the unaided eye. Adjustment marks are the result of standard production procedures, and as such they are commonly found on coins of the early Mint. Still, many collectors today find them distasteful and as such any 18th-century piece without adjustment marks being immediately visible is just that much more desirable. Further, fewer than a half dozen examples of this date have been certified finer than the present beauty by NGC.

The fields exhibit some fine die polishing marks, and are considerably prooflike as often seen on quarters of this date. The devices are boldly executed with a lustrous satin finish. The sharpness of strike is one of the most important considerations for these early coins, and the present piece has much to offer in this regard. In general, *slight* softness is noted at the shoulder and the curl just behind the forehead. Otherwise, the obverse is particularly sharp with excellent definition both in the central hair curls and peripherally amongst all stars. The dentils are sharp and even. The reverse characteristics are perhaps worthy of an essay! The fields are

nice reflective and the devices are sharply frosted. The strike is superb for the issue. Though some softness is seen on the breast feathers, eagle's head, and upper leaves of the wreath, all of these details are significantly better executed than on the vast majority of the 1796 quarters seen. The head of the eagle in particular is nearly complete with a sharply defined outline, bold nostril, and distinctly visible tongue. This portion of the design is notoriously weak on quarters of the date, and the present piece is a welcomed exception. To illustrate where this coin ranks in terms of strike alone, one might consider that it is finer than the Gem Oliver Jung specimen in our July 2004 sale, and it is marginally sharper than the Eliasberg Browning-2. An important example of this 18th-century rarity offering high grade, superb strike, and lovely aesthetic appeal. Suitable for the finest of collections, and an opportunity as such.

NGC Census: 8; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Famed Original 1827/3/2 Proof Quarter Rarity

The Pittman Coin

Fewer than 10 Known



200 1827/3/2 B-1. Rarity-7-. Original. Proof-63 (PCGS). One of the all-time great rarities of American numismatics, a famous example of an issue that has been legendary since the days of the Civil War. Reflective surfaces show a pleasing array of golden toning, subtly intermingled with pale blues over the mostly gray surfaces. The strike is excellent, as expected, with localized weakness at the olive leaves on the reverse and the wing tip closest to U of UNITED. A nick just inside the denticles below star 13 makes this famous specimen simple to pedigree and does not affect the eye appeal, a net positive in an odd way. Magnification discerns a Y-shaped mark left of the denomination and a tiny scratch on Liberty's chin. Though there are some hairlines, accounting for the grade as assigned, the Proof surface remains. When Walter Breen saw this coin between 1954 and 1977, a thin coat of lacquer remaining from Farouk's ownership was on the surfaces, causing Breen to adjudge this specimen harshly, but now that the lacquer has been removed the previous visual appeal has been restored and this piece looks very nice for the grade.

Only nine specimens of this outstanding American rarity are thought to exist, making it one of the rarest of all original American coins, excepting the unusual novodel-like issues like the 1804 dollar, 1913 nickel, etc. This quarter was actually struck in 1827, unlike the restrikes (see next lot) which were coined about 50 years later and are great American rarities in their own right. Though a mistold tale about Joseph Mickley receiving four specimens at face value from the Mint in 1827 has been redesignated as numismatic legend, largely through the careful research of Karl Moulton, the appeal and historic nature of these Proof quarters from 1827 remains. Only great collections tend to include an original, and many great collections likewise lack one: Garrett, Norweb, Newcomer, Boyd, Eliasberg, Col. Green, Parmelee, Hawin, Farouk, and Pittman all owned one of the original nine at one time or other. One specimen is permanently impounded

in the Mint Cabinet, and others are held in strong private hands. This is the first original 1827 quarter ANR has been fortunate enough to catalogue for sale, and one of only two specimens that has changed hands in the era covered by the most recent Dannreuther-Garrett reference on auction records (the other was the worn Eliasberg coin, graded Proof-20, which sold for \$63,250 in 2004).

There are very few issues (not varieties) struck in the year indicated on the coin that are known by 10 or fewer specimens: the 1913 nickel, the 1870-S dollar, the 1822 half eagle, the 1894-S dime, 1854-S \$5, and a few other pieces come to mind. Each is a classic, and most are now million-dollar coins. While the 1827 Original quarter is a long way from breaking the \$1 million mark, offerings are similarly infrequent and important. This example's long and important provenance underlines the historic place this issue holds in American numismatics.

PCGS Population: 1; 4 finer (Proof-66 finest).

In the October 1864 Woodward sale, this coin brought almost 10 times what a nice Mint State 1796 quarter brought, and no other quarter (including the 1823/2 and the 1804) was close.

We thank Karl Moulton for his assistance in correcting the provenance of this and the following coin, allowing us a more accurate history than those promulgated by Breen or published in the Eliasberg catalogue.

From the collection of William Long, ca. 1857; New York Coin and Stamp Company's sale of the Robert Coulton Davis sale, January 1890, Lot 1435; Henry and S.H. Chapman's sale of the Harlan Page Smith Collection, June 1906, Lot 779 (misattributed); collection of H.O. Granberg and displayed at the 1914 ANS Exhibition (plate 16); Waldo Newcomer Collection; Charles M. Williams Collection to Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg; Numismatic Gallery's sale of "the Adolphe Menjon Collection," June 1950, Lot 696; King Farouk of Egypt; Sotheby's sale of the Palace Collections of Egypt, February 1954, Lot 1688 to John J. Pittman for \$1,890 (the highest price Pittman had ever paid for a U.S. coin); David Akers Numismatics' sale of the John J. Pittman Collection, Part II, May 1998, Lot 1283; Stack's sale of January 2004, Lot 3700

Superb 1827/3/2 Restrike Quarter

Perhaps 15 Known



- 201 **1827/3/2 B-2. Rarity-6+. Restrike. Proof-65 (NGC).** Another great rarity in the American coinage series, coined at the US Mint from the 1827/3/2 obverse die and a reverse die from 1819. The present specimen is one of the finer examples known of this famous and eagerly sought issue. The surfaces show impressive reflectivity—especially considering the extensive rust that befell the dies between 1827 and when this piece was struck, variously estimated from the 1850s to the 1870s (concurrent with the 1804 Class III dollars). The obverse is a lovely pale blue-gray, especially bright and reflective at the peripheries, while the reverse shows thorough golden toning around devices and periphery. The strike is especially bold, even more detailed than the originals. The only identifying mark is a very minor dull nick on the chin. Some raised die file marks are present on the obverse, mostly in a heavy pattern from the date to star 9 in the right obverse field, and should not be confused with hairlines. Undoubtedly the rusted obverse was filed, also known as lapping, in an attempt to remove the rust, and a few other spare raised file marks may be seen elsewhere; hairlines are few and far between. The reverse also shows various evidence of raised die rust but is deeply reflective and very attractive, nicer than the other two examples we have sold. We offered a PCGS

Proof-63 in our December 2003 sale, the R.L. Miles specimen, and a PCGS Proof-64 in our November 2004 sale, pedigreed to Malcolm Jackson, William Atwater, and Reed Hawn. More information on this issue can be found in each of those descriptions, archived at www.amcoins.com.

With the population estimated at only 12 to 14 different specimens by careful researchers, we doubt that we will continue to have the opportunity to offer one a year. We would place this among the best half dozen extant. NGC has three certification events at higher levels, PCGS has four (none finer than Proof-66), but based on certification figures and the actual population, each known coin has been certified 1.7 times, leaving us to assume that there are only three or four finer coins in existence. We can say this with certainty: it is the best we have handled, and would be a centerpiece in a collection of important American coins.

NGC Census: 4; 3 finer (Proof-66 finest).

From B. Max Mehl's sale of the *James Ten Eyck Collection*, May 1922, Lot 521; Virgil Brand to F.C.C. Boyd; Stack's sale of the *Cass "Empire" Collection*, November 1957, Lot 1026; Paramount's sale of the *Hinman "Century" Collection*, April 1965, Lot 855; Heritage's 1997 ANA sale, August 1997, Lot 6234 (not sold).



- 202 1834 B-4. Rarity-1. AU-55 (PCGS). Brilliant silver gray with excellent lustre for the grade and a hint of golden toning that is chiefly visible at the peripheries. Some light scattered marks, but very nice for the grade.

Rare Gem Proof 1847 Quarter Fewer than 10 Pieces Known



(2x photo)

- 203 1847 Proof-65 (PCGS). Thorough and attractive toning on both sides is dominated by golden shades, with a mottled and interesting array of grays, blues, and other colors no doubt imbued by the original Proof set box which once contained this coin. In cataloguing the Pittman specimen of this rarity, David Akers (who knows as much about Proofs of this era as anyone) noted that this issue in Proof was "struck only for inclusion in Proof sets of that year and it is my estimate that just 10-15 such sets were issued." This specimen must rank among the best of them, with deep mirrored fields, exemplary eye appeal, no notable flaws at magnification, and extraordinary detail. Perhaps half of those struck exist today—PCGS has certified four specimens and NGC has rendered grades on five, suggesting that Akers estimate of seven survivors is probably right on the money. A few are now without their original toning, but those whose color remains resemble this one in both color and appeal. A prize for a collector of pre-1858 Proofs or a highlight inclusion in a Proof type set. This kind of coin is one whose price has not increased over the years in equilibrium with its real rarity.

PCGS Population 2; none finer.

- 204 Quartette of certified quarter dollars: ☆ 1852 AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous golden gray surfaces ☆ 1861 AU-50 (ANACS). Bluish gray with hints of gold ☆ 1915 AU-58 (ANACS). Sunset gold with steel blue at the obverse periphery, the reverse is a mixture of steel blue and gold ☆ 1929-D AU-55 (PCI). Brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 4 pieces)

Gem Proof 1856 Quarter Dollar A Rarity in this Format



(2x photo)

- 205 1856 Proof-65 (NGC). Well struck and brilliant. A very attractive example of this early Proof, a rarity at any numerical level, especially in the gem category.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66).

The reverse die of this Proof quarter (and all other 1856 Proof quarters seen by us), has a prominent bulge through the eagle's wing to the right. The identical die was used to strike all 1857 Proof quarters that have passed under our view.

While it is thought that 210 silver Proof sets were made in 1858, when coin collecting was accelerating in popularity, no reliable estimates have been found for earlier times. Likely fewer than 100 silver sets were made in 1856 and, for some curious reason, in 1857 not as many were made as the year before. Today offerings of a Proof 1856 quarter are significant occasions.

Remarkable 1857 Quarter

Solo Finest Graded



(2x photo)

- 206 **1857 Proof-64 Cameo (PCGS).** Remarkable is this 1857 quarter, first as the highest cameo Proof graded by PCGS with none equal or finer. Second this variety is extremely rare, the number in existence is no more than a few dozen. The present piece is well struck and brilliant with light champagne toning. Although it is certified as Proof-64, in actuality it may be a bit nicer than that. For the record, it is the *only* Proof of the date awarded a “cameo” designation by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the designation.

The reverse die used to strike this Proof was employed in 1856 for Proofs of that date. On the present piece the die polish is incomplete on the obverse, resulting in interesting horizontal striae across the fields, perhaps mistaken for hairlines at quick glance, but technically not affecting the grade one way or another.

Finest Proof 1859 Quarter

Top in NGC Census



(2x photo)

- 207 **1859 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, and the solo finest cameo Proof of this date graded by NGC. Brilliant on both sides. Sharply struck frosty devices against deep mirror fields.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

The study of the four-digit date logotypes across American coinage of this era is interesting. Save for some excellent articles by John W. McCloskey in *The Gobrecht Journal*, not much attention has been paid to them, perhaps Dave Bowers' published comments on logotypes on \$3 and \$20 coins being exceptions. However, even in such popular series as large copper cents, specific details and cross references to other denominations are few and far between. Here, indeed, is an avenue for further exploration.

On the 1859 quarter the logotype is very small, just compare it to the size of the digits in the 1857 quarter earlier offered.

Gem Cameo 1860 Proof Quarter



(2x photo)

- 208 1860 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC). Brilliant, beautiful, and ranking with no finer certified by NGC. A truly splendid coin that will grace the cabinet of its next owner.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Cameo Proof 1861 Quarter

Solo Finest NGC Coin



(2x photo)

- 209 1861 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS). Another blue ribbon quarter dollar, this coin stands proudly all by itself at the top of the cameo designation pyramid at PCGS—no competitors and none higher—indeed, the present sparkling beauty is the sole Proof of the date to obtain a "cameo" designation from PCGS! Both obverse and reverse are well struck, exhibit excellent contrast between the design and field and have superb eye appeal. Coins such as this are truly hard to come by.

PCGS Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

The Eliasberg 1862 Proof Quarter

None Finer Certified



(2x photo)

- 210 1862 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC). Fully brilliant with a hint of pale champagne on frosted motifs and mirrored fields. One of just 550 Proofs of the date struck, though it is entirely possible that not all were distributed. Ranking with three other certification events in the top spot at NGC, this lovely coin is one of the nicest we have ever examined. Adding to these attributes is its pedigree to the collection of Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., the finest collection of American coins ever formed. Today, the several thousand pieces in the Eliasberg federal series are widely dispersed, with the pedigree adding great interest to the fortunate owners who have such pieces. The biography of this fabulous collector can be found in a book length study by Q. David Bowers, 1996, *Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., King of Coins*.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

From Henry and S.H. Chapman's sale of the William Dickinson Collection, March 1894; J.M. Clapp to John H. Clapp; Clapp Estate to Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr., 1942; Bowers and Merena's sale of the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, April 1997, Lot 1479.

Exceptional Quality 1864 Proof Quarter



(2x photo)

- 211 **1864 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** Few Proof 1864 quarters have been certified as high as this, and among those there is an open question as to eye appeal and quality. No question here, the piece is brilliant on both sides, has excellent contrast, and is simply superb.

NGC Census: 2; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Splendid Gem Proof 1865 Quarter



(2x photo)

- 212 **1865 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, and among the finest certified. Another delightful Liberty Seated quarter of a quality seldom seen anywhere. Beyond its desirability as a Proof, quarter dollars of this era are very elusive in high circulation strike grades, placing extra demand upon Proofs.

NGC Census: 5; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).



- 213 **1866 Motto. Proof-64 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Brilliant with light golden toning. Nice contrast on both sides. An attractive example of the first year with the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. One of only three Proofs of the date across the grading spectrum called "DCAM" by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-65 DCAM).

Solo Finest PCGS 1867 Proof Quarter



- 214 **1867 Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A beautiful coin, a great attraction for the connoisseur, this piece is sharply struck, has beautiful contrast, and is accented with a whisper of champagne. It is the solo finest deep cameo 1867 Proof quarter graded by PCGS, and further, the finer of just two Proofs of the date certified "DCAM" by PCGS.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the designation.

Elusive Proof 1868 Quarter



- 215 **1868 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** Another attractive quarter with light champagne toning on both sides. As can be seen from the population figures, this particular date is more elusive than thought in higher levels. As such the purchase opportunity is even more important.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66 Cameo).

Superb "None Finer" 1869 Quarter

Proof-66 Cameo

Tied for Finest Graded by NGC



- 216 1869 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC). Brilliant on both sides with excellent contrast, this quarter stands at the very top of the NGC *Census* for this numerical designation and description. Whether you are seeking a single Liberty Seated quarter for a type set or would like to embark on the challenge of a date sequence, the opportunities offered here are not likely to be repeated soon.

NGC *Census* 3, none finer within the designation.

Solo Finest NGC 1870 Quarter

Ultra Cameo Proof-67



2x photo

- 217 1870 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC). Brilliant, beautiful, and at the pinnacle of NGC grading quality. And, oh yes, the eye appeal is beyond compare.

NGC *Census* 1, none finer within any designation.

Rare Gem Proof 1871 Quarter



- 218 1871 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC). Largely brilliant with a dusting of tan gold on the frosted motifs and highly reflective fields. This

lovely Proof is nearly at the top of the roster although it is "only" Proof-65. For reasons not fully understood, some Proofs of this era are considerably more elusive than their mintages suggest. This is such a date.

NGC *Census* 4, 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66 Cameo)

Under magnification this piece becomes an interesting study for the Proof specialist. The obverse die is polished in an unusual manner, with some "mirror" streaks being visible near the stars at the right. The striking was not complete on certain stars, with the fourth and fifth having light centers (as noted this is striking, not die preparation).

The reverse is struck from a significantly rusted die. Apparently it was heavily rusted, then relapped and repolished, but not completely removing the rust which is still prominent, particularly below the eagle's wing on the left. The relapping process took away some of the background of the motto ribbon, such as at the loop at the lower left. This identical reverse die was used to strike the just-offered Proof of 1870, but not the forthcoming Proof of 1872.

John Dannreuther, among others, has been studying Proofs of this era. In the early 1870s some shenanigans were in place, not fully deciphered yet, which involved restriking, among other things. Apparently Proof 1864-L cents were restruck at this time as were some other Proofs of the preceding decade. Adding to the matter for study is the use of regular issue reverse dies of various silver denominations on patterns with distinctive obverses. If a registry is ever formed to tag the characteristics of reverse dies of this era and when they were used, some interesting conclusions might be drawn.

Visually Rewarding Proof 1872 Quarter

NGC Proof-68 Cameo

Finest Certified by NGC Within any Designation



(2x photo)

- 219 1872 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC). A visually rewarding treat. The heavily frosted motifs and richly mirrored fields are resplendent in their cameo contrast, appearing no doubt much the same as the day it was plucked from the dies 133 years ago! The finest Proof of the date in an NGC holder is about to enter the auction arena and test your bidding mettle—are you up to the challenge?

NGC *Census* 1; none finer within any designation.

Reverse die line at viewer's left edge of shield, typically referred to as the "Reverse of '72 variety;" it makes future appearances on other dates of Proof Liberty Seated quarters as late as the early 1880s.

Important 1873 Proof Quarter

Arrows at Date



(2x photo)

- 220 **1873 Arrows. Proof-66 (NGC).** A lovely Proof, fully brilliant with nice cameo contrast, this piece will probably end up in a high-quality type set. The With Arrows type of 1873 and 1874 yields relatively few Proofs in relation to the desire for them. Again we state that high-quality Proofs are few and far between in this series, the combination of a high number and excellent eye appeal does not come along all that often.

NGC Census: 11; 3 finer (Proof-68 finest).

Reverse of '72, die line at left side of reverse shield.

Landmark Proof 1874 Quarter

Arrows at Date



(2x photo)

- 221 **1874 Arrows. Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** A Proof of landmark quality, a gem with nice contrast. Brilliant with light champagne

toning. Desirable for the with arrows feature found on all quarters of this year but scarce in the lineup of American design types. This dandy coin will no doubt attract extensive bidding. Few can equal it in quality.

PCGS Population: 4; none finer within the designation.

Reverse of '72, die line at left side of reverse shield.

Lovely Gem 1875 Proof Quarter

PCGS Proof-65 DCAM



- 222 **1875 Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Brilliant with high contrast. Attractive. Not ultra-high in terms of grading number, but high in the roster of what has been certified by PCGS. As noted earlier, quarters of this era can be difficult to find in higher grades for reasons not known.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66 DCAM).

Reverse of '72, die line at left side of reverse shield.

Cameo Gem 1876 Quarter

Proof-67 NGC



(2x photo)

- 223 **1876 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A lovely specimen, brilliant, well contrasted, and with excellent eye appeal. Absolutely top quality, with none finer certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within the designation

Attractive Gem Proof 1879 Quarter



- 224 1879 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC). A very pleasing example of this popular date, the first year of Philadelphia Mint quarters with a very low related circulation strike mintage, thereby focusing more demand on the available Proofs. Brilliant with nice contrast. Little more could be hoped for in a quarter of this date.

NGC Census: 7; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Splendid Gem Proof 1880 Quarter

A Colorful Cameo Beauty
Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 225 1880 Proof-69 Cameo (NGC). A sparkling cameo gem Proof of the finest order. The heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields range from bright, pale golden yellow at the centers outwardly through wisps of rich violet, gold, and gunmetal-blue. The strike is exceedingly sharp and crisp, and prospective bidders will find themselves greatly challenged to find any flaw on the surfaces of this virtually perfect gem. Indeed, the present gem Proof is the finest Proof of the date certified by NGC within any designation, a remarkable feat in and of itself when one considers that 1,355 Proofs of the date were struck, and NGC has seen a fair proportion of that mintage. "Reverse of '72," reverse raised die line at viewer's left border of shield; this reverse appears intermittently between 1872, where it saw its first use, and as late as 1882 (as witnessed by the present writer).

NGC Census: 1, none finer within any designation.

Incredible Proof 1881 Quarter



(2x photo)

- 226 1881 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC). High contrast together with champagne toning. A very desirable quarter dollar. Few like it exist anywhere. Again we emphasize eye appeal, a consideration sometimes ignored, especially when people chase numbers only.

NGC Census: 6; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 ★ Cameo finest).

Finest Graded 1882 Proof Quarter



(2x photo)

- 227 1882 Proof-67 (NGC). Brilliant with nice contrast. Light golden toning. Finest grade assigned by NGC, but in company with some others at the same level. The 1882 is another one of those low-mintage dates that has evergreen popularity.

NGC Census: 12; none finer within any designation.

Splendid Gem Uncirculated 1882 Quarter

Tied for Finest Graded by NGC



(2x photo)

- 228 **1882 MS-68 (NGC).** A sparkling, satiny gem with intense cart-wheel lustre on faint champagne gold surfaces. Variety with repunched 18 in date (see below). A sharp and splendid gem of the finest order, a coin that is truly deserving of the assigned grade. The strike is bold and crisp, and the eye appeal just won't quit! Further, this lively, lovely gem is tied for finest graded by NGC.

NGC Census: 3; none finer.

This variety with repunched 18 in date, which quickly faded from the die after continued use, was first discovered by Frank Van Valen in 1989, and due note of the discovery was made in the Larry Briggs reference on Liberty Seated quarters.

Iridescent Proof 1883 Quarter

Solo Finest NGC Coin



(2x photo)

- 229 **1883 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, and with high contrast. Solo finest graded by NGC with this number and description. Beyond that, the eye appeal is superb, expected with this consignment from a consummate connoisseur. The present piece has exquisite iridescent toning, quite delicate around the obverse border, with silver centers. The reverse has light golden toning overall, with some splashes of blue near the dentils.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Outstanding Gem 1884 Quarter

NGC Proof-67 Cameo



(2x photo)

- 230 **1884 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with high contrast. A splendid gem specimen with light golden toning. The folks at NGC must have had a great time when certifying coins for the owner of this marvelous group. And, we are sure that PCGS and ICG graders enjoyed themselves as well, although it does not seem that as

many coins were sent there. As to ANACS, we see none at all. Sometimes consignments come in clusters, heavily preferring one grading service or another, not often evenly divided.

NGC Census: 8; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-69 Cameo).

Top NGC 1885 Quarter Dollar



(2x photo)

- 231 **1885 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful, this piece exhibits excellent strike, high contrast, and great eye appeal with just the faintest nuance of golden toning. Just two certification events have been recorded at this level, involving no more than two coins, of course, and, who knows, possibly just one.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Ultra Cameo).

Dazzling Gem 1886 Quarter

Highest PCGS Grade



(2x photo)

- 232 **1886 Proof-67 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Brilliant with sharp contrast. A splendid specimen that ranks at the very top of the pecking order in the PCGS *Population Report*.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer within any designation.

Incredible Quality 1887 Quarter

No Finer PCGS Grade



- 233 **1887 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** One of three certification events registered by PCGS, none higher. Brilliant on both sides, this lovely 1887 quarter, of a famous and rare date, exhibits excellent contrast and great eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer within the designation.

Exceptional Gem Cameo Proof 1888 Quarter



- 234 **1888 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Richly brilliant with frosty devices and mirrored fields, and with a dusting of faint gold at the rims. Another exception to the general rule in numismatics, another coin combining *high quality and eye appeal* with the not so elusive concept of high numerical grade. The net result is one of the finest 1888 quarter dollars in existence anywhere.

NGC Census: 9; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-66☆ Cameo finest).

Solo Finest 1889 Proof Quarter

Top NGC Listing



(2x photo)

- 235 1889 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and lustrous with high contrast, this quarter crosses the finish line ahead of any competitors in the Registry Cup races (if there is such a thing). The pursuit of high number coins for registries posted by PCGS (David Hall originated the concept) and NGC have magnetized many buyers who have a competitive spirit. As a result, when a stand alone coin such as this—the finest graded and the only one in that category—comes to market, there can be a lot of electricity in the air!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Memorable Gem 1889 Quarter

Fantastic Circulation Strike



(2x photo)

- 236 1889 MS-67 (NGC).** Sharply struck, beautiful, brilliant, with satiny lustre, this simply has to be one of the nicest circulation strike Liberty Seated quarters we have ever laid our eyes upon. Of course, the date 1889 is special, due to the low mintage. As is true of so many coins in the present catalogue, to look at it may arouse in you a fierce passion for acquisition. Be forewarned!

NGC Census: 26; 2 finer (MS-68 finest).

Superlative Cameo Proof 1890 Quarter

Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 237 1890 Proof-69 Cameo (NGC).** A splendid, absolutely superlative cameo gem Proof of the date, one of only 590 Proofs of the date produced. Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form an intense and explosive cameo contrast. The design details are bold and crisp, and the overall appearance flirts with absolute

perfection. We proudly note that the present gem Proof is the finest Proof of the date certified by NGC within any designation. Look all you want, you won't find any reason why this blazing gem *shouldn't* be designated Proof-69 Cameo.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Notable Gem 1890 Quarter
Ranking Among Finest at NGC



(2x photo)

- 238 **1890 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with pale golden peripheral highlights. A registry participant may take this one home. If not, anyone building a high-quality type set would do well to consider it. The coin is of exceptional quality, with contrast on this particular piece being of an exceptional nature—as even a quick glance will confirm. This has to do with the die preparation for this particular year. A truly wonderful coin.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Ultra Cameo).

Iridescent Proof 1891 Quarter
A Treat to the Eye



(2x photo)

- 239 **1891 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A coin of superb quality, probably the greatest appeal of this coin is its iridescent toning. On the obverse magenta and gold are intermingled at the center, giving way to splashes of blue toward the bottom. On the reverse the center is mainly a combination of lilac and magenta, with rich sunset blue around the borders—sort of what the sky might look like in Iowa about 9:30 in the evening on July 4th.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68).

Gorgeous 1892 Proof Quarter
First Barber Issue



(2x photo)

- 240 **1892 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** What a nice way to start a new design. Offered here is an incredible quality example of the first year of issue of the Barber motif, designed by Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber and launched this year. The coin has excellent striking, deep contrast between the frosted motifs and mirror fields,

and is fully brilliant. The demand for this will be widespread. Our own preference is that it lands squarely in someone's high-quality type set, but no restrictions will be placed upon bidders!

NGC Census: 5; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-69 Ultra Cameo finest).

Solo Finest 1893 Proof Quarter

NGC Ultra Cameo



(2x photo)

- 241 **1893 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with heavily frosted motifs, deeply mirrored fields, and a glancing blush of faint gold on Miss Liberty's cheek. This is the one and only—the only game available—for an NGC Proof-68 with the Ultra Cameo designation. Exactly what the difference between "Cameo," "Deep Cameo," and "Ultra Cameo" is we do not quite know, and don't presume to ask. But as time goes on these designations have been devised by the grading services. In actuality, for most Proofs (including the 1893 quarter) the die pair was the same so either all pristine pieces in existence today are ultra cameo Proofs or they are something else—they do not differ. It could be suggested that during the process of striking a few hundred Proofs the cameo contrast might diminish, or whatever, but we have not observed this to be the case. Isn't nomenclature a curious thing?

The present piece is gorgeous to behold and its subsequent owner will have a little treasure.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem 1894 Proof Quarter



- 242 **1894 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Nice contrast, sharp strike, and high numerical grade in the NGC roster come together to create another memorable Barber quarter. This piece is brilliant on both sides with a whisper of golden toning. If forming a date run of Barber quarters is on your numismatic menu, we recommend that you consider very strongly the offerings in the present sale. It may be many years before we or any other numismatic auction firm offers so many pieces combining high numerical grades with the even more important aspect of quality.

As to the market level now in comparison to what it will be a few years hence, the future is unknown. However, Barber Proof coins, say Proof-65 or 66, were selling for more in 1990, also a decade earlier in 1980, than they are now! This situation is truly remarkable.

NGC Census: 7; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

Exemplary Cameo Proof 1895 Barber 25¢

NGC Proof-68 Cameo



(2x photo)

- 243 **1895 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form an extraordinary cameo contrast; warm golden tones at the rims add immensely to the overall appeal. Sharp and appealing, as should be expected from a delightful gem Proof Barber quarter. Of the 880 Proofs of the date struck, we suggest the present beauty must certainly be among the top 1% of extant specimens.

NGC Census: 11; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-69 Cameo★ finest).

Marvelous Gem Cameo Proof 1896 Quarter
Tied for Finest Graded by NGC
Ultra Cameo Proof-69



(2x photo)

- 244 1896 Proof-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Occasionally, writers of all sorts of material suffer from "writer's block," and the present writer confesses that he is on the verge of just such a malady. As any good writer, however, this author will push onward. Barber's austere portrait of Liberty is heavily frosted, as is the reverse eagle, and a light dusting of rich gold graces the devices on both sides. The mirrors are deep and languid, verging on what is commonly referred to as "black," with extraordinary cameo contrast being the result. This gorgeous Ultra Cameo Proof-69 Barber quarter is one of two examples of the date certified as such by NGC; no 1896 Proof quarter has been certified finer than the present beauty by NGC. Until an absolutely perfect example of the date comes along, you will probably not see a finer Proof 1896 quarter anywhere!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Finest Graded 1897 Proof Quarter?



(2x photo)

- 245 1897 Proof-68 Deep Cameo (ICG).** Graded as Proof-68 Deep Cameo by ICG, this may or may not be the finest graded by this service. We do not mean to tweak their noses, but it would be nifty if they published some population reports. No one is expecting that the quantity of numbers contained will match those turned out by NGC or PCGS, but every bit of information is helpful, and it would be interesting to know if this marvelous coin has any peers at that particular service. Likely not, but who knows?

Both obverse and reverse are splendid to behold, showing deep contrast and superb eye appeal. Delicate champagne toning adds to the attractiveness.

Unbelievably Beautiful Proof 1898 Quarter

NGC Proof-69 Ultra Cameo



(2x photo)

- 246 **1898 Proof-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a nuance of faint golden toning. The beautifully frosted devices appear to be chiseled from living silver and floating luxuriously in a pool of deep "black" molten silver, such is the overall appearance. Sharp and appealing, and among the six finest Proof examples of the date certified to date by NGC.
NGC Census: 5; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-69★ Ultra Cameo).

Gem Cameo Proof 1899 Quarter



(2x photo)

- 247 **1899 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Yet another memorable gem, this 1899 checks in at the very top of the PCGS roster, with three

other certification *events* but none finer. This piece has great quality to accompany the high grade. The contrast is excellent on the present specimen and it is brilliant overall. Likely it is indistinguishable from how it must have looked when it was first struck.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

Golden Gem 1900 Proof Quarter

Top Population Status



(2x photo)

- 248 **1900 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Another piece perched at the very top of the NGC Census, this coin will appeal to anyone forming a registry set. Beyond that it will appeal to any connoisseur who is looking for an exceptional type coin or a piece in a date collection. The devices are in high contrast against the mirror fields. On this particular specimen light golden toning is seen on both sides, particularly around the rims.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Iridescent Gem 1901 Quarter



- 249 **1901 Proof-67 (PCGS).** A very attractive specimen displaying intense iridescent toning on both sides. The centers are mainly gold and silver, changing in patination to blue, then with splashes of magenta. Coins with such vivid toning play to a special audience, and we expect to see a lot of interest from that quarter.

PCGS Population: 10; none finer within the designation.

The reverse is of the new hub, slightly restyled, not dramatically. Perhaps the most obvious markers have to do with the wing tips at left and right. On the new hub, as here, they protrude slightly beyond the tops of the letters they pass through. On the old hub the tips are flush with the tops of the letters.

Unique NGC 1902 Gem Proof Quarter



- 250 1902 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC). Unique in the NGC Census, the one and only Cameo Proof-67 graded, here is yet another piece that will probably cause a scramble when it crosses the block. The coin is brilliant overall, quite attractive. The portrait this year is lightly polished in the die, giving it a somewhat "brighter" appearance than on earlier issues. See related commentary under other Proof coins of this era. Perhaps the removal of the facilities to the third Mint building was part of the cause.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Beautiful 1904 Proof Quarter



- 252 1904 Proof-67 (NGC). A very attractive example, fully brilliant, and with everything else desirable. On quarters of this year the portrait remains lightly polished in the die, this being true of other denominations as well, and not varying from coin to coin.

NGC Census: 27; 5 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ finest).

Top Grade 1905 Proof Quarter Finest NGC Assignment



(2x photo)

- 253 1905 Proof-68 (NGC). A brilliant coin, standing at the top of the NGC roster. Brilliant on both sides with a hint of golden toning. Portrait lightly polished in the die, true of all.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within any designation.

Splendid Gem Cameo Proof 1903 Quarter Finest Graded by NGC



(2x photo)

- 251 1903 Proof-69 Cameo (NGC). Frosted motifs and satiny, mirror fields display pale champagne and rose toning on both sides. A sharp and attractive gem of the finest order, a beautiful coin that literally defies any would-be bidder to locate a surface disturbance. We could drone on with endless hyperbole about this beautiful gem, but suffice it to say that if any coin deserves to be "finest known" Proof of its respective date, then the present coin is it!

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Elegant 1906 Proof Quarter



- 254 1906 Proof-67 (NGC). Not the highest grade assigned, but not far from it, this coin in the company of others shares the gem Proof-67 designation. Beyond that the coin is brilliant on both sides and quite attractive. The portrait remains slightly polished in the die, this being the last year of this technique in the quarter series.

NGC Census: 22; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68 finest).

Superlative 1907 Proof Quarter Top NGC Grade



(2x photo)

- 255 **1907 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Fully brilliant with a slight suggestion of pale golden toning at the rims. A coin of superlative quality which features a revival of the cameo contrast (not seen on quarters since 1901) against deep mirror fields. Sharply struck and simply gorgeous!

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Remarkable Proof 1907 Barber Quarter Superb Gem, Highest NGC Grade



- 256 **1907 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** One of just two certification events (not necessarily different coins) at this level, none higher. A "trophy coin" par excellence for the connoisseur with a competitive spirit.

The present piece is splendid in its aspect, with frosted portrait, lettering, and other devices set against a deep mirror field. Fully brilliant on both sides, the piece could not have appeared much different on the day it was struck. Beyond that, the 1907 quarter has one of the lowest mintages in the Barber series. Add everything up and you can see why we expect a lot of excitement when this crosses the block.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1908 Barber Quarter Among Finest Certified



- 257 **1908 Proof-65 Cameo (PCGS).** Brilliant, beautiful, and everything else that is great. A high number, too—among the finest certified by PCGS.

The portrait of Miss Liberty and the eagle, as well as the numbers and letters, are frosty and are set against deep mirror surfaces. Light champagne toning is seen overall. The result is a Barber quarter that is a treat to the eye, reflective of superb connoisseurship of the consignor to the sale, a quality which will be seen among higher silver denominations in due course in the present catalogue.

In 1908 only 545 Proofs were struck, the lowest mintage of its decade. Of these, not many can hold a candle to the present coin in terms of combined high grade and the even more important aspect of eye appeal.

PCGS Population: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo).

Remarkable Proof 1909 Quarter Dollar Among Finest Certified



- 258 **1909 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant, beautiful, and desirable in each and every way. Frosted portrait and devices against a deep mirrored surface, with delicate golden toning, a nice companion to others in this consignment. Very few 1909 quarters in the entire universe of American numismatics can match the quality of this. As to the reported mintage figure of 1,125 pieces, we'll have to ask researcher Roger W. Burdett about this. Most probably, more silver Proofs were made this year in view of increased interest in coins in general, what with the advent of the new Lincoln cent. However, whether this many were actually distributed is not known. Roger has been delving into original mint correspondence and documents, preparatory to publishing a study on early 20th-century coinage. He has been of great help in certain of our research projects, including Dave's books and also the *Guide Book of United States Coins*.

NGC Census: 6; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Stunning Gem Proof 1910 Quarter



(2x photo)

- 259 **1910 Proof-68★ Cameo (NGC).** They don't get any better than this—well, perhaps they do, but it is hard to envision what a nicer coin would look like! The present piece challenges perfection, is as brilliant as the day it was made, and displays cameo contrast against a “puddle” of Proof background. To see this is to want to own it.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-69★ Cameo finest).

Superb Cameo Proof 1911 Quarter

Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 260 **1911 Proof-69 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display faint rose and champagne highlights. From a Proof mintage for the date of just 543 pieces, the third lowest Proof production figure in the Barber quarter series. Sharp and appealing, and easily worthy of the accolades one would expect for a coin at this amazing gem Proof grade.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Solo Finest Proof 1911 Quarter

Top NGC Grade



(2x photo)

- 261 **1911 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and mirror fields show a hint of faint champagne toning. This is the one and only coin graded at this designation in the Proof-68 category by NGC. While we might be trampled by people forning

registry sets (a concept pioneered by David Hall of PCGS, which has caught on like wild fire, and is now used by NGC as well), we respectfully suggest that *any* connoisseur will dearly love it.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Top Grade 1912 Proof Quarter

Superb Gem Proof-67



- 262 **1912 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** An outstandingly brilliant cameo gem Proof with frosty design elements and mirrored fields. No higher piece has been certified with this designation by NGC, and only two other *certification events* are reported, not necessarily representing different coins. Barber quarters of this era are very difficult to find in a combination of high grade and truly fine quality. The present sale offers not one but quite a few truly elegant specimens across different series. The word *opportunity* may be more important than the price paid.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Solo Finest 1913 Proof Quarter

Top NGC Grade



- 263 **1913 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** A splendid gem cameo Proof 1913 quarter with frosted motifs and mirrored fields that exhibit rich, bold brilliance. A superb gem Proof from a mintage for the date of 613 pieces. Of the survivors from that mintage, the present coin is, far and away, the *finest cameo Proof* seen thus far by NGC! We have settled on "glorious" for a definitive description of this beautiful Barber quarter.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1914 Quarter



- 264 **1914 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful. Deep mirror surfaces with cameo contrast. Under high magnification a few contact marks can be seen on the cheek. Otherwise perhaps NGC would have called this Proof-68 or Proof-69? No matter, it is still high in the order of such things.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Superb Gem Proof 1915 Quarter

Final Proof Issue



- 265 **1915 Proof-67 (NGC).** A superb specimen, a delightful coin that the advanced collector will appreciate. This represents the last year that Proofs were struck in the Barber quarter series, although circulation strikes were made the year following. From a very special consignor, this piece is a virtual definition of *quality*, deep mirror fields, cameo contrast (not designated on the holder), and wonderful eye appeal.

NGC Census: 13; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68 finest).

- 266 **Trio of certified quarter dollars:** ☆ 1915-D MS-63 (PCGS). Lustrous with pale golden orange and rose highlights ☆ 1916-D MS-62 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1928 MS-62 (NGC). Brilliant and lustrous with a touch of delicate gold at the rims. (Total: 3 pieces)



- 267 **1917 Type I. MS-65 FH (NGC).** Lustrous surfaces with much brilliance, especially at the center, with splashes of light gold and brown toning. Sharply struck and with a *real* full head, not just an imprinted FH designation. As has been pointed out in some of our catalogues and elsewhere, for many certified Standing Liberty quarters Full Head does not mean *Full* Head, but *almost* Full Head. And, on some, a coin can be designated as Full Head with an almost full head, but have weak rivets in the shield or other problems. Dave Bowers has suggested the term Full Details (FD) to designate pieces that have *everything* sharp. Accordingly, we present this coin as FD.

Not relating to the grading, but worth mentioning, is a bright spot on the reverse, seemingly from contact with a larger coin, but not toned. Without this the coin might be called MS-66.

Gem Low-Mintage 1932-S Quarter



(2x photo)

- 268 **1932-S MS-65 (NGC).** A splendid 1932-S quarter, a gem example of the lowest mintage regular issue in the Washington series. Not as rare as the 1932-D (of slightly higher mintage) at the same grade level, but still quite elusive in comparison to the demand for them. The present piece is highly lustrous and frosty, attractive overall, and with a minimum of contact marks. The fields are silvery with lightly mottled toning. An outstanding example.

NGC Census: 47; 5 finer (MS-66 finest).

Superb Gem 1934 Quarter Light Motto



- 269 **1934 Light Motto. MS-67 (NGC).** Brilliant, lustrous, and as nice as when it was first minted. The earlier of the two varieties, with IN GOD WE TRUST in light letters in the die. Slightly scarcer than its later Heavy Motto counterpart.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.



- 270 **1934-D MS-65 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous with a wisp of toning over frosty surfaces. A lovely piece, the elusive nature of which seems to be unrecognized. In view of the number of people interested in Washington quarters, relatively few gems can be found. If we were picking some early Washington quarters to lay back for investment purposes, this would be on our list—at the right price, of course.

HALF DOLLARS

Every once in awhile—and not often—someone with adequate finances and love for numismatics decides to take his or her time and carefully build a collection of incredible *quality*. This does not mean gathering holders bearing high grading numbers, although that is important of course. What it does mean is reviewing coins that are graded at high numerical levels, and then carefully examining them for overall eye appeal and quality. A consignment by a connoisseur, who took the time needed and spent the money required, is presented throughout this catalogue, with superb Proof half dollars in the present section nicely matching other denominations offered elsewhere.

Liberty Seated halves from this consignment begin with a rare and notable 1858, then continue to escalate in assigned grading number and quality throughout the Liberty Seated series, then into one of the most fantastic presentations of Proof Barber coins we have ever offered. Interestingly, the Barber halves from 1892 to 1915 are not complete in Proof, as one piece is missing—the 1914. However, that date is represented by a gem Mint State, a great rarity, far more elusive than a Proof! Later Proof halves, beginning with the 1936 Liberty Walking, will also satisfy.

Superbly Pedigreed 1802 Half Dollar

Randall-Garrett-Pryor



(2x photo)

- 271 **1802 Overton-101. Rarity-3. AU-50 (PCGS).** A superb example of this very scarce issue, boasting perhaps the best provenance that can be imagined for an early half dollar. Lovely antique silver gray with pleasing golden undertones and traces of blue. Some traces of lustre remain in protected areas, only minor scattered circulation marks, with a diagonal one off Liberty's nose offering an identifier common to the Garrett and Pryor plates. This date is well known among collectors for its exceptional scarcity, particularly so in higher grades. Certification data notwithstanding, this piece ranks among the finest known in terms of overall quality, and its eye appeal is ideal for the grade. The fact that this piece graced the cabinet of J. Colvin Randall — the Philadelphia father of modern variety collecting — and the collections of T. Harrison Garrett and modern connoisseur James Bennett Pryor speaks volumes about its attractiveness and desirability. A coin that will always be a superb example of a classic and popular issue.

PCGS Population: 5; 11 finer (MS-62 finest). PCGS has twice issued a Mint State grade (MS-62 both times), but these appear to be the same specimen.

From the J. Colvin Randall Collection, one of the first cabinets consisting of early silver varieties; perhaps from John Haseltine's "Type Table" sale, November 1881, Lot 695; Bowers and Ruddy's sale of the Garrett Collection, Part I, November 1979; Bowers and Merena's sale of the Pryor Collection, January 1996, Lot 5.

- 272 **Quartette of certified half dollars:** ☆ 1828 O-110. Rarity-2. AU-55 (PCGS). Lustrous and attractive with just a whisper of delicate silver gray at the devices ☆ 1841-O AU-58 (NGC). Lustrous with rich rose-gold at the obverse center changing to iridescent blue at the periphery, the reverse is a mixture of iridescent sea green, gold, rose and deep rich lilac-gray ☆ 1854 Arrows. AU-53 (PCGS). Lustrous golden surfaces ☆ 1875 AU-55 (PCGS). Frosty pale olive-gray surfaces. (Total: 4 pieces)

- 273 **Quintette of certified half dollars:** ☆ 1828 O-114. Rarity-3. EF-40 (PCGS). Rich olive-gray with hints of bluish green and orange-gold ☆ 1844 VF-35 (ANACS). Bluish gray with traces of golden gray ☆ 1844-O VF-30 (ANACS). Rich steel gray over both surfaces ☆ 1854-O VF-30 (ANACS). Rose-gray with rich silver gray at the obverse periphery, the reverse with delicate blue-gray and rose-gray ☆ 1856-O Recut Date. AU-50 (ANACS). Splashes of bluish gray and golden gray on both surfaces. (Total: 5 pieces)

Gem Uncirculated 1837 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 274 **1837 MS-65 (NGC).** Highly lustrous with bursts of rich golden toning on both sides. Struck from slightly misaligned dies, with the eagle's head on the reverse pointing toward 1:00 rather than the usual 12:00. Sharply struck and with all the eye appeal one would desire from the MS-65 grade. Just a baker's dozen examples of this date have been certified finer than the present gem by NGC. NGC Census: 34; 13 finer (MS-67 finest).

Marvelous 1855-O Half Dollar

Superb Gem



(2x photo)

- 275 **1855-O Arrows.** MS-66 (NGC). A marvelous specimen, brilliant, lustrous, and frosty, with the fields being somewhat satiny. Eye appeal comes to the fore with this 1855-O, adding interest and desirability to what is already a great coin.

For some reason, half dollars of the type with arrows at date and no rays on the reverse are quite difficult to find in overall high quality—eye appeal plus high number. Most are rather scuffed or have other problems. We can readily imagine that someone assembling a fine type set will bid liberally on this one.

NGC Census: 5; none finer.

Splendid 1858 Proof Half Dollar



- 276 **1858 Proof-64 Cameo** (PCGS). Brilliant with light golden toning. Frosty motifs and devices. Some lint marks here and there in the field, as typical for Proof quarter dollars (especially) and half

dollars of 1858, but for some reason, not the other denominations. The oily rag used to wipe the die surfaces left some lint behind.

The number of Proof half dollars of this year is not recorded, but based upon certain early correspondence, it is believed that 210 silver sets were made. It was probably possible to order single pieces apart from the sets, but we have no evidence that this was done in the case of the half dollar.

Today the Proof 1858 half dollar can be noted as a rarity. The present coin has excellent eye appeal within the assigned grade, and certainly will be a *keeper* for the advanced collector. In fact, if you are specializing in Proof half dollars, this will be a logical first purchase and beginning spot, as 1858 is the first year that these were widely sold to collectors. Get set for many truly wonderful Proofs on the pages to follow!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within the designation.

Stunning Proof 1859 Half Dollar

Remarkable Quality



(2x photo)

- 277 **1859 Proof-65 Cameo** (NGC). Brilliant, and beautiful, light heather toning over deep mirror surfaces. Frosted devices. One of the nicest Proof 1859 half dollars we have ever seen—a statement that means quite a bit as we have probably bought, sold, and examined as many as any other cataloguer now alive.

Suffice it to say, if you desire a Proof 1859, the search can end right here.

NGC Census: 3; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest)

Gorgeous Proof 1860 Half Dollar
Solo Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 278 1860 Proof-67 (PCGS).** Brilliant centers give way to rich violet, rose, and electric blue halos at the rims. All bets are off, the room is up for grabs, all stops are pulled out—anything goes! This is one of the finest Proofs we have ever seen of *any* Liberty Seated silver coin. No words can possibly do justice to its amazing beauty. Why don't we stop right here and invite you to examine it in person, bringing with you as many superlatives as you can, and supplying them after you look at the coin! It truly is that nice!

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1861 Half Dollar
Top Population Category



(2x photo)

- 279 1861 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** One of just two certification events by NGC at this level. A splendid specimen, brilliant with a whisper of champagne toning. Pleasing to the eye. A coin that is bound to satisfy even the most seasoned collector.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem 1863 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 280 **1863 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Frosty motifs and devices over deep mirror surfaces. Light golden toning. As reflected by the NGC certification data, few others in existence can match this.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Ultra Quality 1864 Cameo Proof Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 281 **1864 Proof-67 Deep Cameo (ICG).** A lovely gem possessed of extraordinary eye appeal, a coin blessed with heavily frosted motifs that seemingly leap from the depths of a molten deep silver sea. A touch of faint gold adds immensely to the overall eye appeal. Careful examination of this beauty will reveal exactly *no* reason why this one should not be graded as it is! Don't be bashful here, for once this is sold, you'll have a great deal of trouble trying to find its twin.

Amazing Quality 1867 Proof Half Dollar None Finer Certified



(2x photo)

- 282 **1867 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** Standing at the top of the PCGS heap, this lovely 1867 is one of two certification events at this level, none finer. Keeping good company with other pieces in this consignment, and closely matching the appearance of many being offered here, the present piece has deep mirror surfaces, frosty devices, and light golden toning. Few others can hold a candle to it.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer within any designation.

Gorgeous Proof 1868 Half Dollar



- 283 **1868 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with a touch of faint gold, beautiful, and among the finest certified. A few contact marks can be seen in the obverse and reverse fields, perhaps worth checking out during lot inspection. However, absent magnification these are not likely to be noticed. While this coin is not quite in the "amazing" category matching certain others offered here, it still can hold its own as a Proof-65.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within the designation (both Proof-66★ Cameo).

Iridescent Proof 1869 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 284 **1869 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Lovely toning characterizes this piece, gold at the center, giving way to iridescence at the rims, mostly magenta, but with some splashes of electric blue. A dandy example for which few equivalents exist.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1870 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 285 **1870 Proof-66 (NGC).** Fully brilliant. Some tiny marks in the field have kept this from a higher grade, but it still stands as one of the finest certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 8; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 finest).

Finest NGC 1871 Proof Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 286 **1871 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** The very finest described and classified by NGC, no others around. *Right now* this means something, but if the piece is submitted and then submitted again, say five times, the "population" will seem to increase—while the rarity is really the same.

Matching most other pieces in this marvelous consignment of silver Proofs, the present coin has frosted elements set against deep mirror fields, with light golden toning.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1872 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 287 **1872 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with deep mirror surfaces and frosty devices. As bright as the day it was made generations ago. Ranking high in the certification list, the present piece will no doubt grab the attention of someone forming a registry set. Indeed, this beauty is the finest of just *two* Proofs of the date to receive an "Ultra Cameo" designation from NGC.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1873 Half Dollar
Without Arrows

(2x photo)

- 288 **1873 No Arrows. Proof-66 (NGC).** Brilliant with a whisper of champagne toning. Frosty surfaces. A very high-grade example of the first type of the 1873 year. Just 600 were struck, no doubt this is in the top 10% of survivors quality-wise.

NGC Census: 22; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 finest).

Important 1873 With Arrows Half Dollar
Superb Gem Proof



(2x photo)

- 289 **1873 Arrows. Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** As brilliant as the moment it was made. Frosted surfaces, mirror fields. The demand for coins for type sets is such that this piece is bound to attract a lot of attention. Of the With Arrows style, motto on reverse, just 550 Proofs (as here) were made in 1873 plus 700 Proofs in 1874, yielding just 1,250 all told. The demand is such that really choice pieces are difficult to find. Here is an exceptional opportunity.

NGC Census: 6; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66★ Cameo).

- 290 **1876 Proof-62 Cameo (ICG).** Brilliant with light golden toning. An attractive example of this Centennial year issue. Among Proof-62 pieces this is very attractive. We realize that for some bidders who are tuned in to numbers, the coin may be beneath notice. However upon inspection it has its own brand of appeal, and we suggest that you do this. There is a tremendous amount of *value* for such a piece under the current market pricing structure.

Superb Proof 1878 Half Dollar



- 291 **1878 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful. Full silver surfaces on both sides. Deep mirror fields with frosty contrast. Very rare so fine.

NGC Census: 5; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo).

Gem Proof 1879 Half Dollar

NGC Proof-68 Cameo

Finest Graded by NGC



(2x photo)

- 292 **1879 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** An extraordinary cameo Proof half dollar, a coin with exquisite eye appeal, a bold strike, and rich golden toning in places. Sharp and appealing, and easily worthy of the assigned grade. The finest NGC-certified Proof example of a date that saw a production of 1,100 pieces.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Superb Proof 1880 Half Dollar



- 293 **1880 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with the barest hint of golden toning. An ever popular date, as are all Liberty Seated half dollars from 1879 onward, due to the enticingly low reported mint-ages for related circulation strikes. Over a long period of years we have had quite a few clients build sets within a set, so to speak, endeavoring to get one each of these interesting dates. The present sale offers coins of exceptional quality within this span.

NGC Census: 10; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Superb Proof 1881 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 294 **1881 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with a hint of champagne toning. Frosty surfaces, deep mirror fields. It would be difficult to envision a nicer piece. Of the millions of different coins and different series that have gone through the portals of NGC, only one 1881 half dollar in this grade has been seen.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Marvelous Proof 1882 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 295 **1882 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Light golden toning over deep mirror surfaces. Another Proof that bespeaks connoisseurship and quality. Not often found so nice.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Superb Gem 1883 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 296 **1883 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Again we are confronted with one of the finest certified by NGC. The present piece is brilliant as the day it was made, with attractive frosty motifs in nice contrast to mirror fields.

NGC Census: 1; 2 finer within the designation (both Proof-68 Cameo).

Especially Choice Proof 1884 Half Dollar



- 297 **1884 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** As brilliant as the day it was made, and just as beautiful. An especially choice example, one of the very finest we have ever seen.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Superb Gem 1885 Half Dollar

Another Marvelous Opportunity



(2x photo)

- 298 **1885 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful, as nice as the day it was made—another truly wondrous specimen. Finest graded by NGC, no competitors in sight! Again we emphasize that the *opportunity* to acquire such quality may be more important than the price paid. Record prices of today are often the bargains of tomorrow, so long as care is taken during the buying process. Today, superb Proofs such of this are less expensive than run-of-the-mill Proof Liberty Seated coins were 25 years ago. To us, this situation would seem to merit further investigation.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Notable Proof 1886 Half Dollar

Among Finest Seen



- 299 **1886 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with light golden toning. A marvelous specimen of the 1886 half dollar, with a curious

mintage figure of 886 pieces, probably because someone at the Mint was being "cute" and wanted it to match the year. Who knows? Again, the quality is extraordinary.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo).

Finest Proof 1887 Half Dollar

"Top Pop" NGC



(2x photo)

- 300 **1887 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful. Light golden toning over deep mirror surfaces with contrasting devices. The nicest seen by NGC or, for that matter, just about anyone else who plans to attend the sale.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Beautiful 1888 Proof Half Dollar



- 301 **1888 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and frosty, closely approaching the condition when it was first struck well over a century ago.

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo).

Top-Grade 1889 Proof Half Dollar

No Finer NGC Coin



(2x photo)

- 302 **1889 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** At the top of the NGC certification roster, this is one of only two *events* that have been noted. Fully brilliant on both sides. Frosty devices against mirror surfaces.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

The date on the 1889 Proof half dollar might bear study, and if you are examining lots we call your attention to it. In the final digit the knob of the 9 is connected to the curve above. Years ago some considered this to be an overdate, and, indeed, the *Guide Book of United States Coins* listed it as 1889/8. Today, it is recognized for what it is—a regular 1889, not an overdate. What is an overdate and what is not can be a subject of opinion and also change. Years ago the *Guide Book* listed the 1869/8 overdate two-cent piece, which surely looked like an overdate, until very careful study was done of multiple specimens, including very early states of the die, and it was found that it was just a regular 1869. Most overdates listed today are unequivocal, but there are a couple of exceptions.



- 303 **1889 MS-63 (PCGS).** A lovely specimen with rich frosty lustre. Silver at the centers evolving to gold, then gunmetal-blue. As pretty as a picture, a delightful coin, and one with a low mintage figure to match. The posted market value for an MS-63 1889 half dollar seems thus to be quite low.

Superb Gem Proof 1890 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 304 1890 Proof-67 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Fully brilliant, not any different than the day it was struck. Frosty devices against mirror fields. Closely approaching perfection, this piece is so nice that it will never have to be upgraded.

NGC Census: 3; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1891 Half Dollar

Last Liberty Seated Issue



(2x photo)

- 305 1891 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant and beautiful. Without a whisper of toning, this piece displays frosty devices against deep mirror fields—a nice companion to pieces offered earlier, and again a coin for the connoisseur.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Incredible Gem Cameo Proof 1892 Barber 50¢

None Certified Finer by NGC



(2x photo)

- 306 1892 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields form a singularly beautiful cameo, creating a miniature piece of art that is worthy of exhibit in the Louvre! Is the present writer high on this particular specimen? You bet he is! Simply gorgeous, easily deserving of the assigned grade, a coin that would be a focal point of any Barber half dollar collection. Far and away the finest Proof of the date certified by NGC, and a quick glance (or a lengthy examination) will readily convince you of that.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Superb Proof 1893 Half Dollar

(2x photo)

- 307 1893 Proof-67 (NGC).** Fully brilliant. Frosty surfaces against mirror fields. A nuance of golden toning. Second year of the Barber design.

NGC Census: 17; 4 finer (Proof-68★ finest).

Superb Proof 1894 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 308 **1894 Proof-67 Cameo (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, accompanied by a high numerical designation but, even more important, of incredible quality and beauty. A hint of golden toning is seen. One of the nicest 1894 Proof half dollars that we have ever laid our eyes upon—and we have probably seen as many as anyone.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo).

Splendid Cameo Proof 1895 Barber 50¢



(2x photo)

- 309 **1895 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Satiny, frosty motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing, modest cameo contrast. Faint golden toning at the rims enhances the overall appeal. A sharp and exciting Proof of the date, one of 880 pieces struck. Just one 1895 Proof Barber half dollar has received a finer grade than the present gem within the Cameo designation by NGC, a fact that speaks highly of the overall quality of the present specimen.

NGC Census: 6; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-69 Cameo).

Amazing Gem Proof 1897 Half Dollar

NGC Proof-69 Ultra Cameo

Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 310 1897 Proof-69 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A truly beautiful gem, a superlative coin that is just a heart beat—or a grading point—from absolute perfection. The heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored “black” fields form a cameo contrast that is nothing short of amazing. Faint golden toning highlights both sides, the end result being, as we noted above, just a whisper from true perfection. If you were to decide tomorrow that you only needed one Barber half dollar in your collection, we suggest the present beautiful gem might be a viable candidate for that honor.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Incredible Proof 1898 Half Dollar

(2x photo)

- 311 1898 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** A superb gem, one of the finest certified. Adding to the high number, an appeal in itself, is superb quality, nicely struck, frosty surfaces, deep mirror fields, and a hint of champagne toning—all one could ask for.

NGC Census: 9; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Cameo finest).

Splendid Gem 1899 Half Dollar

Superb Proof-67



(2x photo)

- 312 **1899 Proof-67 (NGC).** Not called "cameo" but there is no reason why it can't be—all Proofs of this year are from the same dies and the present piece does have frosted devices and inscriptions. Brilliant with a whisper of champagne toning, this coin not only stands high in the annals of NGC certification data, but perhaps even more important, it has incredible eye appeal—a beauty to behold. With a mintage of just 731 Proofs, most survivors of which are far below this in quality, the present piece offers a remarkable opportunity.

NGC Census: 10; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-69 finest).

Impressive Gem Proof 1900 50¢

Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 313 **1900 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Sparkling, frosty silver devices and richly mirrored fields display a nuance here and there of pale gold or rose. Sharply struck with an overall cameo contrast that lends support to this specimen's claim to "finest known" honors for the date. Readily worthy of the assigned grade, a fact that will become plainly obvious if you take the time to examine this beauty first hand.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within any designation.

Superb Gem 1901 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 314 **1901 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Brilliant with delicate golden toning on both sides. Frosty, beautiful surfaces. Called "cameo," a nomenclature that does not seem to be precisely defined, and not always used, but referring to the devices being frosted or matte set against mirror surfaces—true of *all* Barber half dollars of this particular year and prior years dating back to 1892 when this series commenced.

Mintage of the 1901 Proof half dollar was just 813 pieces, a remarkably small amount in view of the demand for them today. Probably not more than a double handful exist that can compete in quality with the piece here offered.

NGC Census: 6; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-69★ Cameo finest).



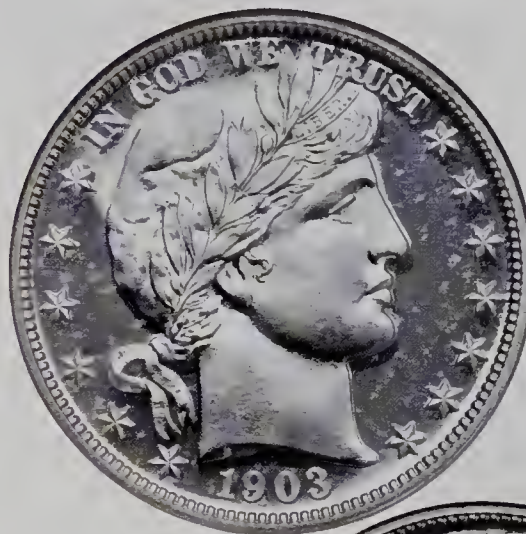
- 315 **1902 Proof-64 (ICG).** Light champagne toning against mirror surfaces. Portrait lightly polished in the die, this being true of all Proof coins of 1902 (although elsewhere some have been called *cameo*). A piece pleasing to the eye, fully living up to the Proof-64 designation. There is some lightness of strike at the center of the

obverse and the lower right of the reverse, interesting to contemplate, possibly even an *attraction* for the dedicated collector of Barber Proof coins who wishes to explore minting techniques and differences in striking. We don't mean to make something out of nothing, and we could have just as easily not mentioned it at all, however to us the features seem to be a bit interesting.

Superb Gem Proof 1903 Half Dollar

Another Remarkable "Top Pop" Coin

Tied for Finest Proof Seen by NGC



(2x photo)

- 316 **1903 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Fully brilliant with lightly frosted motifs and richly reflective fields. One of just two certification events at this level, not a higher NGC coin in sight, with the "cameo" designation. Called "cameo" but slightly polished in the die, as are all half dollars of this date, a technicality that reminds us that, sometime, it might be interesting to write a book on early Proof coins, going a bit beyond the excellent study done by Walter Breen in 1977 (updated in 1987). As is true of all Barber half dollars of this era, the 1903 has a small mintage, in this instance just 755 Proofs. Most of them have survived in grades less than this, again creating a remarkable opportunity. One of only two 1903 Barber half dollars called Proof-67 Cameo by NGC, with no examples of the date certified finer than the present gem by NGC within the Cameo Proof designation.

NGC Census: 2; none finer within the designation.

Finest Proof 1904 Half Dollar
Top in PCGS Listing



- 317 **1904 Proof-66 Cameo (PCGS).** One of seven certification events at this level with none higher within this designation. A very beautiful piece, indeed gorgeous. Brilliant with light golden toning. A coin of handpicked quality commensurate with the other pieces offered here. Those readers who remember market history may recall that in very early 1980 a Proof Barber half dollar of gem quality, not necessarily as nice as the piece offered here, could command \$15,000! Today in 2005, a quarter century later, the coins are the same but prices are much lower. The time to buy is when others are not paying attention. Again, the present piece seems to be a remarkable opportunity with regard to market price and quality presented.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer within the designation.

Stunning 1905 Proof Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 318 **1905 Proof-67 (NGC).** Another beauty, this piece has mirrored surfaces accented by delicate golden toning. The year 1905 hap-

pens to be rather scarce in circulation strike form, placing an additional demand and aura of desirability upon the few remaining Proofs.

NGC Census: 7; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-68 finest).

No Finer 1906 Proof Half Dollar
Top NGC Population



(2x photo)

- 319 **1906 Proof-67 (NGC).** Bright and flashy with lightly dusted motifs and reflective mirror fields. Again, this piece could be called "cameo" or "deep cameo" or "ultra deep cameo" if desired—based upon our observation of other coins. Nomenclature has not been standardized and actual examples can vary all over the place with regard to the adjectives applied. Suffice it to say that the present piece is absolutely gorgeous, stunning in its aspect. It is one of 12 certification events at this level, most certainly representing a much smaller number of different coins. As for the idea of resubmissions, the other day our numismatic staff was mildly amused upon seeing that the 1866 Liberty Seated silver dollar without motto, one of only two struck, the only specimen in private hands, and recently sold by us for over \$1 million, has now been certified six times (four by PCGS, two by NGC), giving the appearance from population reports that there are that many around. Perhaps in a few years the number of certification events for that single coin will climb to 15 or 20. Who knows?

NGC Census: 12; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ finest)

Incredible 1907 Proof Dollar



- 320 **1907 Proof-66 (NGC).** A splendiferous, gorgeous, and otherwise very nice example of this highly prized date. Deep mirror surfaces on both sides showcase frosty devices and inscriptions, all accented by a delicate wisp of champagne toning. The remarkably small mintage of 575 coins this year adds to the desirability. Another *find* for the connoisseur. The entire sequence of Barber Proofs in this catalogue will be long remembered.

NGC Census: 20; 6 finer within the designation (Proof-67 finest).

Gem Proof 1908 Proof Half Dollar



- 321 **1908 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** A splendid gem, as nice as can be. Not the very top in the population listing, but when you look at this coin you will have difficulty envisioning one that could be nicer—it is that beautiful. Deep mirror surfaces with frosty devices and inscriptions, all with a light champagne patination. One of just five Proofs of the date awarded the “Cameo” designation from NGC, and remarkable as such.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Memorable Gem 1909 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 322 **1909 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Largely brilliant with a nuance of faint golden toning. A memorable gem, one of the finest we have ever seen. We are rapidly becoming *spoiled* by contemplating and cataloguing these Proof half dollars. Just about any one of them would be difficult to duplicate quality-wise in the market. By quality we do not refer only to the designated grade on the holder, which in most instances is remarkable enough, but to the important aspect of eye appeal.

NGC Census: 7; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-68 Cameo finest).

Superb Gem Proof 1910 Half Dollar



(2x photo)

- 323 **1910 Proof-67 (NGC).** A superb gem Proof, deep mirror surfaces with lightly frosted devices, accented by champagne toning—a nice match for the preceding. A tiny smidgen of deeper toning is seen on the rim below the date. Similar to 1905, and even more relevant with the dates 1913 through 1915, the 1910 has a low circulation strike mintage, placing extra demand upon the relatively small number of choice Proofs still surviving. This and the other coins in the listing would make a beautiful display if grouped together. This will probably not be possible due to auction competition, but our advice is to bid as strongly as you can and to buy as many as you can. Actually, even a single coin for a type set would be a prize.

Beautiful Proof 1911 Half Dollar



- 324 **1911 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Light champagne toning. Another beautiful Proof, called Proof-66 but if it were called Proof-67 we wouldn't blink. With deep mirror surfaces, frosty devices, and a hint of champagne, it completely satisfies.

NGC Census: 10, 3 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest)

Gorgeous Proof 1912 Half Dollar

High Certified Status



- 325 **1912 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** A lovely specimen, among the top 10 graded within this designation by NGC. Beyond that it has quality and eye appeal, not necessarily a factor that goes with a high numerical designation. This coin matches those offered earlier—deep mirror surfaces, frosted devices, and delicate golden toning. The market value of this coin, just a few thousand dollars, seems to be incredibly inexpensive. Again, we recommend that you consider your possibilities with this offering, examine the lots, and if you are not presently collecting Proofs of this era make a beginning right here.

NGC Census: 2; 6 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Key Proof 1913 Half Dollar

Superb Gem



- 326 **1913 Proof-66 (NGC).** Another description following its predecessors—deep mirror surfaces with frosty devices, delicate champagne toning, and more eye appeal than any coin deserves. Buy this one and you will have hit a numismatic home run. Further, 1913, because of its low related circulation strike mintage, is one of the more prized dates.



- 327 **1914 MS-65 (NGC).** Mint State, not Proof, and a rarity as such. Satiny lustrous surfaces, gorgeous, with well struck devices. Brilliant with light golden toning. This coin is sufficiently rare that in quite a few years of numismatic experience we have only seen a handful of 1914 half dollars that can combine a grading number in this range with superb striking and eye appeal. Although we are surprised now and then, it is likely that if the morning after the sale you desire to buy a duplicate in grade and overall quality, an offer of twice the price would not yield that result—it is that rare.

Only 124,000 circulation strikes were made of the 1914 half dollar. At the time there were absolutely no albums or folders to store coins in and the collecting of circulated pieces was not popular. Anyone who desired a 1914 half dollar as part of a date sequence simply ordered a Proof. The circulation strikes passed into general commerce and in time became worn. It was not until the 1950s that there was a general realization that for some issues Proofs could be readily available, but circulation strikes could be great rarities if in gem Mint State.

If Barber half dollars are your specialty you might want to mortgage the farm for this one. Well, not quite, but it certainly is worth a "stretch" bid.

NGC Census: 7; 1 finer (MS-66 finest).

Center Point 1915 Proof Half Dollar Superb Gem Proof



(2x photo)

- 328 **1915 Proof-67 (NGC).** Among the finest certified by NGC, this coin earns high marks for those who keep track of numbers. However, perhaps even more important this specimen joins its companions in the present sale and offers a generous serving of quality and eye appeal in addition. The devices and inscriptions are frosted, set against mirror surfaces with golden toning.

NGC Census: 10; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ finest).

Although the *Guide Book* reports that 450 Proofs were minted—the smallest Proof production of any Barber half dollar 1892-1915, the rarity goes beyond that. In the 1940s and 1950s a numismatist resident in Virginia, a nice fellow by the way, decided to hoard all the 1914 and 1915 Proof half dollars he could find. By bidding aggressively and buying whatever was offered, he acquired hundreds of pieces across

both dates. Because of this, the market price went up. He had a virtual "corner." If you collect old copies of the *Guide Book of United States Coins* (an interesting pursuit, by the way), and you turn to an issue of around the year 1955, you will see that the Proof 1914 and 1915 are listed at multiples of any other Proofs in the series.

Unfortunately, each of these coins was lightly polished while in the possession of that Virginia numismatist, yielding coins that were "brilliant" but extensively hairlined. Their aesthetic value was severely damaged. The numismatist said this was done without his knowledge, by his secretary. In any event it was done and there was no turning back.

Since then quite a few of these hairlined pieces have been retoned or otherwise masked, and the damage is not as evident as it was when they were first put back on the market. Today pristine Proofs of 1914 or 1915 are significantly rarer than the mintage figures suggest. Now you know why.

Gem Proof 1936 Half Dollar As Nice as Can Be



(2x photo)

- 329 **1936 Proof-66 (NGC).** Brilliant fields with devices being partially frosty and partially semi-brilliant from the dies as made. Well preserved, remarkably so, and standing today as one of the nicest we have seen in recent times of the first Proof in the Liberty Walking series. Just 3,901 were made, without doubt this piece is in the top percent of survivors quality-wise.
- 330 Quintette of certified half dollars: ☆ 1942 MS-64 (PCI). Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1944-D MS-66 (PCGS). Brilliant and lustrous ☆ 1945-S MS-64 (NGC). Satiny with splashes of mottled gold and blue-green at the rims ☆ 1946 MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous with a whisper of delicate rose ☆ 1946 MS-64 (NGC). Brilliant and lustrous. (Total: 5 pieces)

SILVER DOLLARS

By this point in the catalogue you have reviewed glittering gem Proofs from the consignment of a connoisseur offered in earlier pages. Now comes the icing on the cake, a memorable presentation of selected Liberty Seated dollars, plus selected Morgan dollars, combining high grading numbers and breathtakingly beautiful eye appeal and quality. Over a long period of years our cataloguers have probably seen as many 19th and early 20th century Proof coins as any experts in the business. We have also reviewed many selections in sales of our fine competitors as well as in dealers' inventories. We can say without hesitation that to duplicate the quality of the glittering silver Proofs offered here, across many different denominations—would take at least five to 10 years, with no guarantee that that would be sufficient! The coins are here now, in front of you, and are available for bidding. We invite your contemplation of the opportunity and encourage you to share our enthusiasm.

Choice AU 1799 \$1



- 331 1799 BB-166, B-9. Rarity-1. AU-55 (ICG). Nice light silver gray with nearly full lustre and fresh lustrous surface remaining at the peripheries. Very nice for the grade, no major marks or flaws beyond some light scattered hairlines. A few natural planchet streaks are visible at the point of the bust and near OF but they are utterly inoffensive. Two die cracks crisscross in the obverse field. Nicely struck and boldly appealing, this coin would make for a desirable addition to any collection.

Rare Proof 1845 Seated \$1



(2x photo)

- 332 1845 Proof-61 (PCGS). Mottled light gray with lightly reflective fields on the obverse, the reverse shows deeper toning of lovely violet, blue, and pale green, undoubtedly darker from contact with either an original box of issue or long time inclusion in a cabinet. As indicated by the grade, this piece was not ideally handled over the years but still retains good eye appeal, particularly on the reverse. Scattered tiny contact marks and some hairlines are noted. A rare issue with perhaps a dozen examples known. Breen accounted for seven and said others were possible, and Pittman lacked this date in Proof. A good opportunity for Liberty Seated dollar specialists.

PCGS Population: 2; 6 finer (Proof-64 finest).

Magnificent Proof 1857 Silver Dollar

Remarkable Quality



- 333 **1857 Proof-63 (PCGS).** Brilliant fields with light golden toning, with some hints of iridescence at the borders. A piece with a great deal of old-fashioned eye appeal, not often the case for Proof silver dollars of any date given the "63" number. Examine it in person and you will see. Both obverse and reverse are well struck, excellent definition of detail. The eye appeal is remarkable. It might be appropriate here to say "buy the coin, not the number." Probably fewer than 100 Proofs of this date still exist. Certainly this is one of the nicest to come on the market in recent times.

PCGS Population: 15; 6 finer within the designation (Proof-64 finest).

Gem Proof 1859 Silver \$1



(2x photo)

- 334 **1859 Proof-66 (NGC).** A pleasing gem Proof example of the date, a coin with frosted motifs and faintly satiny fields that come oh so close to a heavy cameo contrast. Faint golden tones glisten on both sides, enhancing the sharply struck design motifs and the abundant eye appeal. From a Proof mintage for the date of 800 pieces, all struck during the first year that accurate Proof mintage figures were kept in Philadelphia. Among the "top 20" examples of the date currently to be found in NGC holders.

NGC Census: 17; 3 finer within the designation (all Proof-67).

Gem Proof 1862 Dollar
Brilliant and Beautiful



(2x photo)

- 335 1862 Proof-65 (NGC).** A brilliant, beautiful and thoroughly worthwhile example of the Proof 1862 Liberty Seated dollar. Just 550 were struck, one of the smaller mintages in the series. However, that is only part of the story. Circulation strikes, of which just 11,540 were made, are rarer yet—as nearly all were exported and melted. In well-worn grades the 1862 is a key date, what with a listing of \$1,000 in EF-40 in the current *Guide Book*, and even \$600 in the low preservation of VG-8. To the cataloguer it seems that *basic rarity* never goes out of style, and for a long time the 1862 has been a key date.

As a Proof this piece has its own degree of rarity, as relatively few have survived with a combination of Proof-65 or finer grade plus superb eye appeal. In fact, many have very little eye appeal, are deeply toned, or otherwise unattractive. The present piece is mirrorlike with light golden toning, in keeping with the general aspect of many Proofs in the present auction offering.

NGC Census 19, 10 finer within the designation (Proof-66 finest)

Highly Desirable 1863 Dollar
Gorgeous Proof



- 336 1863 Proof-64 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A splendid specimen, one of very few described at this level. Frosty devices are set against mirror fields. A few marks are seen here and there under magnification, such as in the field to the right of Miss Liberty's head and at the right border, but *otherwise* the piece could be graded higher. In-person examination is suggested. At casual glance the piece closely resembles a gem. The present piece is one of just four Proofs of the date to obtain the "DCAM" designation from PCGS.

The 1863 is another Liberty Seated dollar which is doubly rare—elusive as a Proof and also rare in accompanying circulation strike form, giving a special degree of desirability.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer within the designation.

Gem Proof 1864 Dollar

Cameo Proof-65

**Superb Proof 1865 Dollar**

(2x photo)



(2x photo)

- 337 **1864 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** A splendid specimen with especially frosty surfaces against deep mirror fields. Light golden toning. The combination of high grading number and great eye appeal do not often come together in a single coin, especially a large, heavy, Proof silver dollar. This piece is above the norm, remarkable for its quality.

Again, we have a Liberty Seated dollar that is doubly rare and doubly desirable. Circulation strikes of the 1864 are seldom seen in higher grades, diverting extra market demand to the few remaining Proofs.

NGC Census: 3; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-66 Cameo finest).

- 338 **1865 Proof-66 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Frosty, lustrous devices and inscriptions against mirror fields. Light golden toning. A truly gorgeous example at the Proof-66 level, a designation not often encountered. Add to it the great eye appeal that is consistent throughout this particular consignment, and you have an easy winner, a coin that will be forever a treasure in your cabinet.

NGC Census: 6; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1867 \$1



(2x photo)

Superb Proof 1867 Dollar
Wonderful Eye Appeal



(2x photo)

- 339 **1867 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** An exceptional specimen in terms of both technical quality and overall aesthetic appeal. Fully frosted devices contrast with deeply mirrored fields. The obverse periphery, especially the left side, shows gorgeous light blue toning that recedes to silvery brilliance in the fields. The reverse, shows lively pale blue and touches of violet-rose with areas of brilliance remaining. Magnified study of both sides suggests that this coin is every bit as nice as the grade indicated and reveals a coin that has been preserved with astounding care since the time of its mintage. A gem Proof with strong originality and everything going for it.

NGC Census: 3; 1 finer within designation (MS-67★).

- 340 **1867 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** Here we go again—a Proof in unusually high preservation from a numerical viewpoint, combined with absolutely stunning eye appeal. Deep mirror surfaces and frosty devices with light golden toning. Another Liberty Seated treasure.

NGC Census: 6; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-67★ Cameo finest).

Superb Gem 1868 Proof Dollar Rarity
Date Numerals on Rim



Gorgeous Gem 1869 Dollar
Proof-65 Cameo



(2x photo)



(2x photo)

- 341 1868 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** On its own the number is unusual, but once again, in combination with absolutely superb eye appeal this specimen is an unquestioned rarity. Lovely frosted devices are set against deep mirror fields. Light champagne toning. Once this is part of your specialized collection or type set you can forget about ever looking at another silver dollar of this date! A rare and unusual variety within the context of Proofs of the date—the tops of extra date numerals can be seen impressed into the rim below the date!

NGC Census: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

Regarding this variety, the present writer (FVV) has seen examples of the date in Proof with the remains of a numeral 1 in the rim to the viewer's left of the date, but never an example with the tops of the numerals on the rim below the date as offered here.

- 342 1869 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** Medium golden toning with deep mirror surfaces and frosty devices. A lovely example, certainly the definition of a really choice Proof-65 coin.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

From the La Jolla Collection.

Gem Proof 1870 Dollar



(2x photo)

- 343 **1870 Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A lovely Proof that marches in step quality-wise with the others in this offering. Deep mirror surfaces highlight frosty inscriptions and devices. Delicate golden toning adds to the desirability.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer within the designation (Proof-66 DCAM finest).

Appealing Proof 1871 Dollar



- 344 **1871 Proof-64 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** A brilliant, beautiful, and very appealing example. This coin is, pardon the expression, *undergraded*. It is a splendid piece, brilliant with a whisper of golden toning, sharply struck, with frosty devices. Check it out in real life—inspect it at the sale—and see if you agree. We would not be surprised if this coin brought a “high end” figure when it crosses the block.

NGC Census: 1; 4 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Ultra Cameo finest).

Attractive Proof 1872 Dollar



- 345 **1872 Proof-64 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** Somewhat conservatively graded by PCGS in our estimation, and certainly as nice as some we have seen designated as Proof-65. No matter, we will consider it a Proof-64 but will add that the eye appeal matches those recently offered—deep mirror fields, golden toning, and everything else as nice as can be.

PCGS Population: 3; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-66 DCAM finest).

Gorgeous and Rare 1873 Proof Dollar



(2x photo)

- 346 1873 Seated Liberty. Proof-65 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** A splendid example rounding out our offering of Proof Liberty Seated dollars, the last year in the series and especially rare in view of the low mintage of just 600 Proof pieces. Obverse and reverse have deep mirror fields with frosty devices and inscriptions against them, again with light golden toning. A pleasing grand finale.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 DCAM finest).

The coinage of the Liberty Seated dollar ended after the Coinage Act of 1873 was passed. This is one of the most misunderstood pieces of legislation in American financial history.

In the early 1870s it was desired to revise the coinage laws. John Jay Knox, an accomplished numismatist, was comptroller of the Currency, an erudite man, both an elegant speaker and facile writer. It fell to him to write the coinage act, part of which involved a great deal of effort to create a new denomination, the trade dollar.

At the time, Liberty Seated silver dollars were no longer being made for circulation. After 1849, each silver dollar required more than one dollar worth of silver to make. The same was true in proportion to the half dime, dime, quarter dollar, and half dollar. Accordingly, such pieces disappeared from circulation. By 1853 there was scarcely a Liberty Seated coin in sight anywhere. To remedy this, the Coinage Act of February 21, 1853 was written, lowering the authorized weight of the half dime, dime, quarter dollar, and half dollar, and designating this on the finished prod-

uct by adding arrows to the date and, on the quarter dollar and half dollar, rays to the reverse. Coins of this new light standard circulated effectively. Silver dollars were not included in the Act of February 21, 1853, as the Treasury Department desired that gold dollars take their place. A great supply of this precious metal was on hand from California, and the more coins that could be minted from it the better.

In the meantime, after 1853 the Liberty Seated dollar continued to be coined, but only on the request of depositors, who had to pay \$1.04 or more per coin in silver to get each one. This did not matter, as these coins were nearly all exported to China, where they were valued by *tale* or weight and silver content. From this time through 1873 the production was nearly entirely exported. When Knox was preparing the legislation in the early 1870s, he realized that no Liberty Seated silver dollars had been used domestically for many years. He also realized that silver dollars were exported. Accordingly the trade dollar was born, of slightly heavier weight than the standard silver dollar, and intended directly for export (although, inadvertently, they were made legal tender in the United States).

The Coinage Act of 1873 was printed, distributed, read, and reread, and then passed. There was very little controversy. Everyone seemed to be in favor of it. However, other factors were in play. In the early 1870s vast quantities of old silver coins came on the market from European countries who had abandoned silver as a standard of coinage, opting for gold. In addition, in the 1870s the Comstock Lode in Nevada yielded ever increasing amounts of silver, supplemented later in the decade by vast discoveries elsewhere, such as in Leadville, Colorado. By the late 1870s there was a glut of the metal, and the price had dropped sharply. Had Liberty Seated dollars been made, they would have yielded a profit to the government, as the price had fallen far below the face value of the coins involved. By 1876 and 1877 there was a big hue and cry. In time the Coinage Act of 1873 became called the "Crime of 1873," as it did not provide for silver dollars to be coined. If it had, large quantities of silver would have been gobbled up by the government, so it was thought, and certain economic woes of miners would be ended.

In retrospect, in many different publications (the writer has seen this in dozens of places ranging from books to magazine articles), it was stated that the Coinage Act of 1873 had been passed in haste, that senators and representatives did not have a chance to study it properly, etc., etc. This was not at all true but in time it changed from political opinion to *fact*. Today in 2005 very few people know the real story.

In any event, the western silver mining interests took matters into their own hands, the result being the Bland-Allison Act of February 28, 1878, which abolished the trade dollar and set in place what we now call the Morgan silver dollar—and forced Uncle Sam to buy millions of ounces of silver each month and coin the metal into dollars. There was no domestic need for silver dollars and over a period of time hundreds of millions of them piled up in Treasury vaults and even in Post Office buildings, an embarrassment and a political nuisance.

- 347 Group of certified Morgan dollars:** ☆ 1878-CC MS-62 (PCI). Brilliant and lustrous with lightly frosted devices ☆ 1879-S 3rd Reverse. MS-65 PL (NGC). Reflective with delicate rose and gold at the peripheries ☆ 1880 AU-55 (ANACS). Mixture of orange and gray over both surfaces ☆ 1880-S MS-63 PL (PCGS). Reflective with lightly frosted device, splashes of golden toning noted on the obverse ☆ 1880-S MS-66 (ICG). Satiny lustre with lightly frosted devices ☆ 1883 MS-64 (PCGS). Satiny surfaces ☆ 1885-O MS-64 (PCGS). Lustrous with delicate golden highlights. (Total: 7 pieces)

Splendid 1882 Proof Dollar



- 348 1882 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** A splendid Proof, well struck, bright silver with delicate golden toning. A coin that stands high among Proof survivors of this date. Rarer than generally appreciated.

Gorgeous Gem Cameo Proof 1896 Morgan \$1
NGC Proof-68 Ultra Cameo



(2x photo)

- 349 1896 Proof-68 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** Heavily frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields create a cameo contrast that is virtually unyielding in its depth and beauty. Pale shades of gold gather on the obverse, with somewhat deeper highlights on the reverse. One of "those" coins that appear to be sculpted from living silver rather than struck from working Mint dies. The present beauty is among the nine finest Proofs of the date seen to date by NGC, and rightfully so. To view this coin is to gain a new appreciation of just how beautiful a Proof Morgan dollar can be.

NGC Census: 5, 4 finer within the designation (Proof-69 Ultra Cameo ★ finest)

Top Population 1899 Proof Dollar
High NGC Census



(2x photo)

- 350 1899 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Right at the top of the NGC Census, one of four certification events with this description and none with a higher number. This, of course, is fine and dandy, and the builder of a registry set will be delighted to own it for sure. However, the number is just part of the story, and it is gratifying to report that the eye appeal and quality are also present—deep mirrorlike surfaces with frosty devices, light golden toning and everything else that bespeaks the connoisseurship of the consignor of this and certain other splendid Proofs in the present sale.

NGC Census: 4; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1902 Dollar



- 351 **1902 Proof-66 (NGC).** Splashes of lively champagne brighten both sides of this lovely gem Proof Morgan dollar. A superb Proof, somewhat bright portrait from the interesting fact that Proofs of this date, of various denominations, were struck with the details polished in the die. This has been explained at some length in some of the writings of ANR staff members (particularly Dave Bowers), but is not generally known, nor is it noticed in the *Guide Book of United States Coins*. All Proofs are this way, and among Proof Morgan dollars of 1902, for example, all are from the same die pair and all have lightly polished portraits. Some have been called "cameo" to be sure, but this is a throwaway word, with no relevance to this date, unless cameo means something other than frosted. Within the parameter of a 1902 Proof dollar, this coin is simply gorgeous. The fields are deeply mirrorlike and light golden toning adds to the appeal. The striking is decent as well. From the C-4 reverse hub, of course, and with different arrangements of detail than found on pre-1900 issues, matters that the Morgan dollar technician knows well.

All told this coin will neatly fill the request for a superb Proof of this date.

The explanation for polishing the portraits in the dies of the 1902 Proof coins, also 1903 and, to a lesser extent some of the immediately following dates, is not known. A conjecture might be that 1902 represented the first full year that the new Mint building (third Mint) was occupied, with new equipment and new surroundings. Possibly a new employee was put in charge of preparing Proof dies or, possibly, the Mint was simply experimenting with different finishes. In any event, the Proof coinage of 1902 and immediately afterward furnishes an interesting footnote in numismatics.

TRADE DOLLARS

Among trade dollars are some beautiful, truly remarkable quality Proofs from the later years—part of the consignment from a connoisseur that is presented here and there throughout our catalogue, with beautiful Liberty Seated, Barber, and other coins already offered.

Trade dollars have a special appeal—large coins, an attractive design, and when found in gem Proof with beautiful surfaces, a joy to behold. Even if you want a single trade dollar to include in a type set, an opportunity beckons in the following columns. If you are a specialist and want several, your opportunities are even greater.

Highly Desirable 1877 Trade Dollar

Choice Cameo Proof



- 352 **1877 Proof-64 Deep Cameo (PCGS).** This is another superb quality Proof from a connoisseur's consignment—another piece that has been assigned a grading number to be sure, but for which the quality transcends that. The fields are deep mirror quality, the devices are frosty and well struck against them, and delicate golden toning completes the picture. If all Proof trade dollars were this nice we would be delighted to instantly write out a check for as many sets as someone would care to send us, paying the full "ask" price! One glance is worth perhaps a dozen words in the catalogue. If you have a chance to examine this lot, please do so. However, you're apt to fall in love with what you see.

PCGS Population: 4; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-65 DCAM finest).

Gem Proof 1878 Trade Dollar

Solo Finest NGC Grade

Proof-65 Ultra Cameo



- 353 **1878 Proof-65 Ultra Cameo (NGC).** The one and only Ultra Cameo Proof designated by NGC at this level. Another splendid coin, frosty devices against mirror surfaces, with golden toning.

1878 represents the first of an interesting string of Proof-only dates. Coins of this year come on the market with some frequency, but few match this combination of high grade, quality, and superb eye appeal, the last features being more important in our opinion. When a coin has everything, including high grade number, perhaps an ideal situation is reached.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within the designation.

Superb Gem Proof 1879 Trade \$1
Among Five Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 354 1879 Proof-68 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and heavily mirrored fields form a delightful and bold cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the holder. One of 1,541 Proofs produced in this, the first date of the trade dollar series that saw no branch mint coinage; only Proof trade dollars would be forthcoming from the Philadelphia Mint from 1879 until the demise of the series in 1883 (or 1885, depending on just how much of a purist you are where trade dollars are concerned). Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing, a coin whose beauty is at once captivating as well as definitive of the assigned grade.

NGC Census 3; 2 finer within the designation (both Proof-68★).

Splendid Proof-Only 1880 Trade \$1
Tied for Finest Certified by NGC



(2x photo)

- 355 1880 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** Frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields display a whisper of rich golden toning at the rims. Sharply struck and aesthetically appealing, with cameo contrast that draws the eye in a most engaging manner. One of 1,987 Proofs of the date struck, a sizable figure that no doubt reflects the speculation and trading that took place in the trade dollar series (as well as the \$3 gold series) during the era. Careful examination will reveal why not a solitary example of the date has been certified finer than the present beauty by NGC.

NGC Census: 8; none finer within any designation.

Remarkable Proof 1881 Trade Dollar
Superb Cameo



(2x photo)

- 356 1881 Proof-67 Cameo (NGC).** Standing very high in the roster of NGC-graded coins, the piece is remarkable for its assigned number and, beyond that, perhaps more important, its eye appeal and overall quality. It can be argued that at the Proof-67 level, many pieces are high quality, but certainly not all are, an aspect not widely recognized. Deep mirror surfaces and light golden toning characterize this marvelous gem, quite in keeping with other coins in the consignment.

NGC Census: 6; 3 finer within the designation (Proof-68★ Cameo finest).

Impressive Cameo Proof 1882 Trade \$1
Finest Graded by NGC
Cameo Proof-68



(2x photo)

- 357 1882 Proof-68 Cameo (NGC).** A pale golden gem with heavily frosted motifs that seemingly float in deeply mirrored golden pools. Sharply and impressively rendered from crisp, finely detailed dies, with even the smallest nuance of Barber's design plainly evident. One of 1,097 Proofs of the date struck. A glance from prospective bidders will no doubt show why this splendid gem is the finest Proof example of the date certified by NGC *within any Proof designation*.

NGC Census: 1; none finer within any designation.

Incredible Gem 1883 Trade Dollar
Cameo Proof-67



(2x photo)

- 358 **1883 Proof-67 Cameo (ICG).** A lovely specimen, closely approaching perfection. Brilliant mirror surfaces, deeply dished or basined on the obverse (remarkably so—interesting to contemplate), somewhat bulged on the reverse, and with frosty surfaces. A nicer 1883 Proof would be difficult to envision.

- 359 **Pair of Buffalo dollars:** ☆ 2001-P Proof-69 Deep Cameo (PCGS). Reflective with deeply frosted devices ☆ 2001-D MS-69 (PCGS). Satiny brilliance as issued. (Total: 2 pieces)

U.S. GOLD COINS

Gold highlights are as extraordinary in quality as they are in beauty. For instance, John Jay Pittman's gem cameo Proof 1856 gold dollar makes an appearance here, a major rarity that deserves a good, long look from all, and will no doubt garner strong bids that reflect its beauty and desirability. Other gold dollar highlights include a gem prooflike MS-67 1877, and a gem Proof-66 Cameo 1886. Other denominations include a gem Proof-65 Cameo 1899 \$2.50, and one of the most cherished and respected rarities in the three-dollar gold series makes an appearance, the low-mintage—only 20 pieces reportedly struck—1874, here in gem Proof-65.

Half eagles include a Small Date 1833 in MS-65, a major rarity in anyone's estimation! A pair of MCMVII High Relief \$20s are here as well—what would a sale be without them? A great group of eagles and double eagles from the *S.S. Republic* are included here, representing one of the earliest appearances of *any* gold coins from this wreck, the most recent in a string of recovered 19th century treasure vessels that went to the bottom of the briny depths, only to come to light for the benefit and enjoyment of today's collecting community. Not to be outdone by the *S.S. Republic*, a select group of coins from the *S.S. Central America* makes an appearance. Among these beauties will be found a complete variety run of 1857-S double eagles that includes all eight of the dies combinations first studied and enumerated by our friend Bob Evans, who was instrumental in the discovery and recovery of the *S.S. Central America* treasure!

GOLD DOLLARS

The Pittman Proof 1856 Gold \$1

Finest Certified by NGC

Parmelee-Woodin-Boyd



360 1856 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC). An outstanding rarity with a positively superb pedigree. Rich even yellow gold with deeply mirrored fields. A well-made Proof, nicely struck, on a good planchet—only a few of the little planchet flakes commonly seen on gold Proofs of this era are present, mostly in the upper right of the reverse wreath, with only a piece to the right of the center of the 1 visible without a glass. Some raised die lines may be seen in the reverse fields, perhaps from an effort to remove the still-present clash marks, notable inside the left side of the wreath. A few scant hairlines are present, and what David Akers described as a “tiny copper spot on the cheek” is still present—we thank our lucky stars every time we see a coin of great significance that has obviously not been fiddled with since its last auction appearance. The tiny spot, the planchet flake, and a lint mark inside the denticles below 3:00 on the reverse each serve as identifiers which allow for this specimen to have a longer chain of ownership than any other specimen in existence—a net gain, in our opinion.

This piece is thought to be one of only seven or eight specimens known to have been struck in Proof, making it a great rarity by anyone's estimation. Two of those pieces are forever off the market and may be seen in the collections of the ANS and the Smithsonian Institution. There are seven separate certification

events, four at NGC (none finer than this one) and three at PCGS (with two graded Proof-65, none finer). This is the finest certified by either service, and it may be the finest of the five or so specimens in private hands. The addition of this coin to your cabinet would probably bring as much joy as it did when John Pittman added it to his collection in 1956, when it joined a full date run of gold dollars from 1854 to 1858 in Proof.

NGC Census: 1; none finer.

David Akers tells the story of how Pittman purchased this coin in his superb catalogue of the Pittman collection: “When JJP purchased this lot, he stood near the podium, facing the crowd in his “Statue of Liberty” pose, until other bidders, resigned to the fact that JJP was not about to lose the lot, ceased bidding, perhaps even before they originally intended to stop.”

From New York Coin and Stamp Company's sale of the Lorin Parmelee Collection, June 1890, Lot 1267; Thomas Elder's sale of the William H. Woodin Collection, March 1911, Lot 856; Waldo Newcomer to F.C.C. Boyd; Numismatic Gallery's sale of the “World's Greatest Collection” (F.C.C. Boyd), January 1946, Lot 11; Numismatic Gallery's sale of a “Memorable” Collection (J.F. Bell), March 1948, Lot 11; Abe Kosoff's sale of the Thomas Melish Collection, April 1956, Lot 1750; David Akers Numismatics' sale of the John Jay Pittman Collection, October 1997, Lot 872. Plated in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins, p. 102.

Gorgeous Gem 1877 Gold Dollar

Prooflike MS-67



(2x photo)

- 361 **1877 MS-67 (PCGS).** Rich orange highlights on deep and lustrous orange-gold surfaces. If this were a Morgan dollar it would be called DMPL (Deep Mirror Prooflike)! However, it isn't a Morgan silver dollar so it has no such notation. Confronting the observer is a numismatic treat: a scarce date 1877 gold dollar, significantly above average in striking quality, with a virtually full mirrorlike surface on the obverse and extensive mirrorlike surface on the reverse. The piece is as pretty as a picture, a coin that virtually shouts, "bid for me!" A find for the connoisseur.

PCGS Population: 16; 2 finer (MS-68 finest).

Superb Gem 1886 Gold Dollar

Fantastic Eye Appeal



(2x photo)

- 362 **1886 Proof-66 Cameo (NGC).** A superb specimen, a treat to the eye, another find for the gold dollar specialist. In Proof, the 1886 gold dollar is very rare, despite the published mintage of 1,016 pieces; this and related data are unreliable. Perhaps some explanation exists for the rarity of the issue, but we don't know what it is. (The capstone example would be the 1889 Proof gold dollar, with a recorded mintage of 1,779 pieces—far and away the highest for any 19th-century gold coin. And yet, among gold dollars of the 1880s, the 1889 is a rarity, and we doubt if more than a few dozen exist). Regardless, the present piece is well struck, has beautiful "orange peel" Proof fields, and is bound to satisfy.

NGC Census: 12; 2 finer within the designation (Proof-67 Cameo finest).

QUARTER EAGLES

- 363 **1854 AU-55 (PCGS).** Brilliant and lustrous. Nicely struck. *Properly graded* in our opinion. All too many AU pieces have been regraded as Mint State. It is nice to see an AU that has lots of lustre and is *really* AU.

Superb Gem Proof 1899 \$2.50



(2x photo)

- 364 **1899 Proof-65 Cameo (NGC).** A superb Proof, rich yellow-orange gold. Frosty head of Miss Liberty, stars, eagle, and inscriptions, against a deep mirror field. A treat to the eye.

It is popular, and certainly fills up space, to list recitations of population report activities. However, a lot of gold Proofs have been playing musical numismatic chairs, and a given piece can pop up in a half dozen different auction sales and, beyond that, be certified a dozen times, making the record indicate that pieces are more plentiful than they really are. A reality check is needed, and population reports should be combined with numismatic experience and knowledge. In the crafting of his best-selling book *The Official Red Book of United States Gold Double Eagles* Dave Bowers attempted to do this with the \$20 series, with good effect it seems, as comments from specialists have been very enthusiastic.

The United States \$3 Gold Pieces, the first in the "Pedigree Series" books by American Numismatic Rarities, has been created with similar care, Dave Bowers working in this instance with Doug Winter, and reviews have been equally enthusiastic. In time it is likely that other gold series will be addressed.

\$3 GOLD PIECE

Gem Proof 1874 \$3 Rarity
Just 20 Proofs Reportedly Struck!
Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

365 1874 Proof-65 (PCGS). Frosty motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo contrast, though such is not noted on the PCGS

holder. Faint orange and rose highlights glimmer in the protected areas of this attractive specimen. Though the obverse field appears somewhat cloudy, careful examination reveals that it is simply textured "orange peel" surfaces on the planchet, as struck, and not at all detrimental to the assigned grade. A highly prized rarity in Proof, with a reported mintage of just 20 specimens, a fact that has endeared this rarity to several generations of enthusiastic \$3 gold collectors. The latest book by Q. David Bowers, *The United States \$3 Gold Pieces 1854-1889*, notes: "The Mint reported that only 20 Proofs were struck, a figure that seems to be verified by the paucity of available examples today." With an estimated 14 to 18 Proofs known, the Proof mintage of just 20 pieces seems to be "right on." We are immensely pleased to offer this splendid gem Proof 1874 \$3 gold piece for your consideration, not only because it is a beautiful coin with exquisite eye appeal, but also because it is the finest Proof example of the date certified by PCGS *within any Proof designation!*

PCGS Population: 1; none finer within any designation.

HALF EAGLES

Impressive Gem 1833 Half Eagle

Probably Finest Known

Small Date



366 1833 Breen I-2. Rarity-7. Small Date. MS-65 (PCGS). A simply remarkable specimen of this great rarity. Superb light yellow gold with coppery toning clinging to left obverse periphery and a portion of the reverse periphery. Smooth and resplendent with satiny lustre, a bit reflective inside the shield lines and areas of the reverse motto where the die was polished. The devices are frosty and very well defined everywhere but star 1 and star 13; these bottom two stars seem to be directly opposite the high relief wing-tips and have been on the losing end in a battle of metal flow. The eye appeal is outstanding, just beautiful. There are some light scattered marks, like a thin horizontal scrape low on Liberty's cheek and a pinpoint nick above star 9, or the reverse nick below AM of AMERICA, but none of these are serious, as the assigned grade suggests. When this piece last sold in 2002, it was in the identical PCGS holder and we agree with the grade as assigned. A stripe of toning from the point of the bust into the left obverse field reflects the originality of the coin and serves as an identifier, and a few other little splashes of toning here or there may also be seen.

This is perhaps the finest example known of this variety in private hands, though the impounded Bass coin is also quite nice we're not sure if it is *this* nice. We can say with certainty it is the only 1833 half eagle graded MS-65 by PCGS and NGC has graded none of the date finer than this grade — the single MS-65 coin on the

NGC Census could be this specimen or a different one. Of course, the 1829 to 1834 type is also a significant rarity for type collectors, and PCGS has certified only three pieces of this type finer than the present coin. In terms of total populations, perhaps a dozen of this variety exist and 50 or 60 of the date in all grades, most showing at least light evidence of circulation. The reappearance of this extraordinary coin represents a great opportunity for a true connoisseur, discerning type collector, or anyone who appreciates rarity that does not fade with time.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Researchers past and present have been at loggerheads on whether the Small Date (as here) or the Wide Date is the rarer of the two varieties of this year. In a scan of past auction appearances for this date, about half the time the Small Date is called the more common variety and about half the time it's called the rarer one! In fact, in the Bass Sylloge, the Small Date is called the "usually seen" variety but on the next pages points out that "most surviving" 1833 half eagles are of the Wide Date variety, producing a riddle that leaves even us scratching out heads. Breen believed this variety to be the rarer one, and called this variety Rarity-7 vs. Rarity-5 for the Wide Date, and we tend to agree. Bass owned only one specimen of this variety (now impounded in the HBRF Core Collection) and two of the other variety. By point of fact, however, just about every collector we know or have known (Harry Bass excepted) would be delighted to own just *one* specimen of this rare date.

From Goldberg's sale of the Benson Collection, Part II, February 2002, Lot 2000.

- 367 Group of Liberty half eagles in Red Label PCI holders, denoting various minor problems: ☆ 1880 AU-50, surface damage ☆ 1881 AU-50, cleaned or polished ☆ 1881 EF-45, excessive marks ☆ 1884 AU-50, surface damage ☆ 1886-S AU-50, surface damage ☆ 1887-S EF-45, surface damage ☆ 1898-S EF-45, excessive marks ☆ 1899 EF-45, cleaned or polished ☆ 1901-S 1/0 AU-55, scratch damage ☆ 1901-S AU-50, excessive marks. (Total: 10 pieces)

Gem Cameo Proof 1899 Half Eagle

ICG Proof-67 DCAM



(2x photo)

- 368 1899 Proof-67 Deep Cameo (ICG). A startlingly lovely gem cameo Proof half eagle of the date, a coin that visually and physically reaffirms the fact that lovely, lively treasures can be found in any third-party grading service's holder! Deep orange gold with frosty motifs and "crinkly" mirror fields that readily hold up to careful, critical surveillance. One of 99 Proofs of the date struck, with perhaps one third or so of that mintage having given way over the years to attrition; no doubt some of these were spent during the Great Depression, while other pieces were simply mis-handled or mistreated over the years. A splendid gem that will easily measure up to virtually any other gem Proof of the date in any third-party holder.

DOUBLE EAGLES



- 369 1877 MS-63 (PCGS). Rich light greenish gold with some faint and attractive coppery toning and gem-calibre lustre. Some scattered bagmarks, none very distracting, and far more eye appeal for this grade than usually encountered. A very nice piece.

Majestic MCMVII High Relief

Flat Rim, MS-64 (PCGS)



(2x photo)

- 370 MCMVII (1907) High Relief, Flat Rim. MS-64 (PCGS). Beautiful even yellow gold with strong lustre on both sides and the eye appeal of a gem. Indeed, the fields are essentially immaculate, free of significant marks or hairlines or other signs of handling, and we imagine that if it were not for a minuscule nick below the Capitol on the obverse this piece would perhaps be a full gem. The face is full, there are no marks on the chest, leg, or knee. We can't imagine a collector being unsatisfied with the look of this specimen.

Choice Mint State MCMVII \$20

High Relief, Wire Rim



(2x photo)

- 371 **MCMVII (1907) High Relief, Wire Rim. MS-63 (PCGS).** Rich medium yellow gold with abundant lustre. An attractive coin with nice color and overall aesthetic appeal. Some scattered marks are noted, including an abrasion at CA of AMERICA, but they are widely dispersed and minor overall. An eternally popular issue in all grades, this example boasts good eye appeal and is sure to take a place of honor in its next owner's cabinet.
- 372 **Group of double eagles grading MS-63 (PCGS):** ☆ 1908 No Motto. Rose gold with faint gray on the high points ☆ 1910. Satiny rose-gray surfaces ☆ 1922. Satiny rose-gray ☆ 1924. Splashes of frosty olive gold on both surfaces ☆ 1926. Lustrous ☆ 1927. Lustrous and attractive ☆ 1928. Gorgeous bright golden orange surfaces. (Total: 7 pieces)

PATTERN COINS

Very Rare 1942 Cent Pattern

Zinc Coated Steel



- 373 **1942 pattern cent. Judd-2054. Rarity-7+. AU-55 (ANACS).** Zinc coated steel. An extremely rare issue from the testing stages of the alloy that would be used on the 1943 steel cent, and in its own way one of the most historic of the 20th century pattern issues. Even medium gray with some spots of dirt or encrustation on the obverse and a few hairlines from handling. Struck in medal turn or 0° rotation. Assigned a rarity rating of R-7+ (4-6 known), the often definitive uspatterns.com website states only that "at least two are known." The 1943 steel cent became one of the most famous coins in U.S. history and the only coin in the *Top 100 U.S. Coins* book that can be purchased for under a dollar; yet for all this historic importance, we are surprised that we have not encountered this very rare pattern before. While most patterns are collected for their beauty (which this one has limited amounts of), this piece stands tall among any of the whole pattern series in terms of historical importance and rarity.

Popular 1865 Shield Nickel Pattern Rarity

Judd-418, High Rarity-6

Tied for Finest Certified by PCGS



(2x photo)

- 374 **1865 pattern five cents. J-418, P-490. Rarity-6+. Proof-66 (PCGS) Nickel.** Plain edge. Bright and lustrous with lightly frosted motifs, mirrored fields, and a nuance of faint gold on both sides. Sharply struck. From the obverse design adopted in 1866, reverse without rays as adopted in 1867. A "transitional pattern believed to have been made in the 1870s" according to information supplied in the 8th edition of *United States Pattern Coins Experimental and Trial Pieces*, edited by Q. David Bowers. Careful examination under low magnification reveals numerous raised die polish lines, spread willy-nilly across the fields, especially so on the obverse. A popular date with Shield nickel enthusiasts, certainly as popular as the 1858 pattern Indian cent is with collectors of that series.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Popular 1869 Standard Silver Dime

J-696 by Longacre



(2x photo)

- 375 1869 pattern ten cents. J-696, P-775. Rarity-5. Proof-64 (PCGS). Silver. Reeded edge. A lovely specimen with olive, gold, and iridescent toning over well-struck surfaces. An appealing example of this variety, reflecting an era in which Mint officials had a playground at their fingertips, making scarce and rare coins such as this in great profusion, and filtering them out into the numismatic market. So extensive was the production of standard silver issues of various denominations that hundreds of different ones can be collected today!

PCGS Population: 9; 8 finer (Proof-65 finest).

MISCELLANEOUS U.S. COINS

- 376 Pair of Capped Bust silver coins: ☆ 1830 half dime. LM-3. Rarity-2. VF-35 (PCGS). Rich old toning dominated by golden shades ☆ 1831 dime. JR-5. Rarity-3. AU-50 (ANACS). Attractively mottled toning with good lustre. (Total: 2 pieces)

COINS FROM THE S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA

It seems that we know the S.S. *Central America* like the back of our hand. Well, almost. It seems only yesterday, but was actually the year 2000, when pieces from this treasure came to market, nearly all through the California Gold Marketing Group (Dwight Manley president), but with a small percentage through Sothebys. Separately, art auction house Christies had a fine sale of coins and ingots from the S.S. *Central America* arranged for the California Gold Marketing Group and "guest catalogued" by our own Q. David Bowers, Frank Van Valen, and John Kraljevich—probably a rather rare happening in the annals of this well-known art and antiques auctioneer.

The vast majority of the coins recovered from the S.S. *Central America* amounting to slightly over 5,400 specimens of the 1857-S double eagle, about 2,000 other coins, mixed and varied in their nature, and several hundred ingots, were sold through the California Gold Marketing Group. To aid in public education, entertainment, and display, the fantastic "Ship of Gold" exhibit was put together, a fanciful reconstruction of the wooden side of the S.S. *Central America*, with portholes through which visitors to conventions, trade shows, and expositions could peek to see ingots and artifacts within. Old photographs, documents, and more were on view, along with re-

covered treasures, highlighted by the Eureka bar, weighing nearly 90 pounds and standing today as the largest, heaviest, and most valuable Gold Rush ingot in existence—a virtual national treasure.

In connection with the project, Dave Bowers created a book, *A California Gold Rush History, featuring the treasure from the S.S. Central America*, published by the California Gold Marketing Group. Comprising 1,050 pages, in full color, hardbound and on fine paper, the volume was produced with no budget in mind—quality was the objective. The result is a

volume which has never had an equal and probably never will have. In effect it was self-financed by the treasure from the S.S. *Central America* itself! Otherwise it never would have been created. Today, as these words are being written, just a few hundred copies of this book remain, list price \$250 each, available from American Numismatic Rarities for \$169 (plus \$10 postage).

Now that we have commented on the numismatic items, a few words about the ship itself, although no doubt most of our clients know the story.

The S.S. *Central America*, launched as the S.S. *George Law*, went into service along the Atlantic coast. In August 1857 the



ANR's Chris and Melissa Karstedt hold an ingot from the S.S. *Central America*, as they pose with Bob Evans in front of the *Ship of Gold* exhibit.



The S.S. *Central America* as she may have appeared in 1857.

ship went on its 44th voyage out of New York City, to the Atlantic coast of Panama, calling at Aspinwall, the port there, and landing passengers and freight. After a brief rest, it took aboard a complement of over 500 passengers, \$1,600,000 in gold, and other items, most of which had come from San Francisco down the Pacific side aboard the S.S. *Sonora*, crossing the isthmus of Panama on a 48-mile long railway, then arriving in Aspinwall.

In due course the passengers and cargo were loaded aboard, the ship hoisted anchor, and headed northward to New York City, a routine voyage punctuated by a brief stop at Havana. Normally, the Havana stop involved passengers going ashore and participating in local entertainments, but this time there was disease rampant in the city and only a few exercised the privilege while most stayed in their cabins. A few others joined the voyage for the first time, an exception being a gentleman who stayed in his hotel too long and missed the ship's departure.

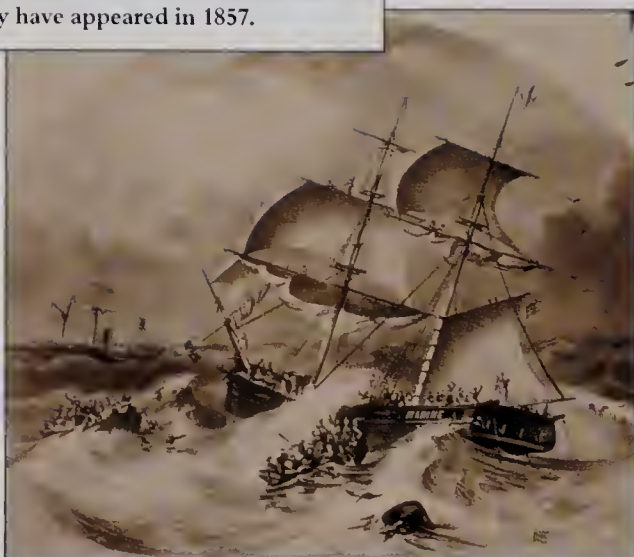
Steaming northward from Cuba, the S.S. *Central America* enjoyed sunny skies and balmy weather, very pleasant on the upper deck as a breeze of about 12 miles per hour kept the passengers cool, this from the ship's forward movement. However, the tranquility did not last for long. Soon, clouds were on the horizon, skies grew dark, and wind rose. At first the waves were small, then larger, then substantial. However, surely this would pass.

This time was different. The storm intensified, the waves grew to mountain height, and by Friday, September 11, the ship was wallowing helplessly, its engines stilled, and the bottom level inundated. Disaster seemed imminent. Things went from worse to even worse yet, if

this is possible. Saturday a few dozen passengers, mostly men and women but some crew, escaped in life boats to a nearby sailing vessel, the *Marine*. However, over 400 remained aboard as any hope of rescue diminished and then ended. At 8:00 in the evening the S.S. *Central America* slipped below the waves, Captain William Herndon standing on one of the paddlewheel boxes in the finest naval tradition, going down with the ship.

Years passed, the S.S. *Central America* disaster faded into history, and not even modern almanacs took note of it (quite remarkable!). However, the treasure was not forgotten, and in Columbus, Ohio, the Columbus-America Discovery Group, the principals of which included Tommy Thompson and Bob Evans, researched old archives, newspaper accounts, nautical data, and more. All of this is chronicled in the aforementioned book by Dave Bowers. Finally, in the late 1980s, the ship was found! Then ensued years of legal wrangling as claimants came forward from all directions, with links to old-time insurance companies and other claims. This proved to be a first class hassle, but was finally concluded in the late 1990s, after which the coins became available for sale.

Today in 2005 all have long since been distributed. Whenever specimens come on the aftermarket, as in the following lots, they are highly appreciated. Review the offering carefully and take advantage of this opportunity to own a piece of history.



The brig *Marine* as women and children from the floundering S.S. *Central America* are rowed to safety in lifeboats.



The final moments of the S.S. *Central America*, as depicted in Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*, October 3, 1857.

S.S. Central America 1856-S \$5



(2x photo)

- 377 **1856-S AU-58 (PCGS)**. An attractive and interesting specimen, with light yellow gold and abundant satiny lustre on the obverse and rich deep yellow gold with coppery highlights on the reverse. Some "curated" coins have a washed-out look, or an antiseptic appeal, but this coin retains interesting toning and a "thick skin" that adds aesthetic attraction. An arc of toning beneath the stars on the left side of the obverse seems to indicate where another coin, apparently another half eagle, clung to the coin during its sentence in the deep. Some scattered light marks and a few hairlines are seen, but it is apparent that this coin saw little or no hand-to-hand circulation before leaving San Francisco. Only 32 1856-S half eagles were found in the massive treasure, and the addition of this coin to a cabinet would make for a scarce and worthwhile complement to any group of coins.

PCGS Population: 9; 3 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the S.S. Central America treasure.

Choice 1856-S \$10

From the SS Central America

(2x photo)

- 378 **1856-S MS-62 (PCGS)**. A fully lustrous and simply beautiful specimen, with eye appeal of a higher grade and a technical quality that suggests a finer grade as well. Rich yellow gold with excellent color and cartwheel, nicely struck and well preserved. A few marks are widely scattered and of little consequence, and some light hairlines are notable only under magnification. A tiny dig behind Liberty's neck is the only useful identifying contact point. 1856-S eagles of this quality were essentially unknown before the discovery of the "Ship of Gold" treasure, and Harry Bass never found a piece better than AU. The successful bidder on this coin will own a piece of Gold Rush history!

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-63).

According to Dave Bowers' *A California Gold Rush History*, 28 specimens of the date were recovered from the S.S. Central America treasure. The 2000 Christies sale of the salvors' portion of the treasure, written by numismatists now on the ANR staff including Dave Bowers, Frank Van Valen, and the present writer, noted that 23 specimens from the wreck had been certified by PCGS. That sale included the lone MS-63, the finest certified example from any source.

From the S.S. Central America treasure.

Bob Evans of the Columbus-America Discovery Group, Dave Bowers, and Dwight Manley of the California Gold Marketing Group, admire an ingot recovered from the S.S. Central America at the 2000 ANA Convention in Philadelphia.

VARIETY SET OF 1857-S DOUBLE EAGLES FROM THE S.S. CENTRAL AMERICA

Lustrous Choice Mint State 1857-S \$20

S.S. Central America

Variety 20A



- 379 **1857-S Spiked Shield. MS-63 (PCGS).** Dies 20A, Spiked Shield variety. SSCA #0161. Bright and lustrous honey gold with great eye appeal for the grade. Deep orange highlights at the rims add to the overall appeal. This begins a sequence of eight different die combinations of 1857-S double eagles from the fabulous *S.S. Central America* treasure. As described below, these will be offered singly on a provisional basis, after which the opportunity will be given for a collector, investor, or museum to acquire all eight with a single winning bid. The die varieties represent the sequence and attributions by Bob Evans, one of the discoverers of the treasure.

Spiked Shield variety, small diagonal "spikes" extend from the lower left of the reverse shield into the field beyond.

Note: In the following listing certain descriptions are used to describe the die varieties. A brief summary of the eight different die varieties is given herewith, the population information being from PCGS data as of August 2000. After that time additional pieces were conserved and evaluated, but adding less than 10% to the total.

Die variety 20A, Spiked Shield: 2,221 graded (from a total of 5,060 as of August 2000)

Die variety 20B, Bold S: 1,058 graded

Die Variety 20C, Narrow Serif: 525 graded

Die Variety 20D, Bold 7: 472 graded

Die Variety 20E, Broken A: 353 graded

Die Variety 20F, No Serif, Right S: 241 graded

Die Variety 20G, No Serif, High S: 166 graded

Die Variety 20H, Bold Low S: 24 graded

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis. After Lot 386 is sold provisionally, the total for lots 379 through 386 will be computed, 5% will be added to the total, and this will constitute the opening bid for Lot 387. If the opening bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards for Lots 379 through 386 will be canceled. If it is not met or exceeded, then the lots will be sold at the provisionally awarded prices.

From the S.S. Central America.

Satiny MS-63 1857-S Double Eagle

S.S. Central America

Variety 20B



- 380 **1857-S Bold S. MS-63 (PCGS).** Dies 20B, Bold S mintmark variety. SSCA #3908. Deep honey gold with distinctive rose highlights on the satiny, somewhat reflective fields and frosty motifs.

Bold S mintmark variety, apparently with repunching or remnants of another S within the lower loop of the existing mintmark.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Lustrous Choice Uncirculated 1857-S \$20

S.S. Central America

Variety 20C



- 381 **1857-S Narrow Serif. MS-63 (PCGS).** Dies 20C, Narrow Serif variety. SSCA #4394. Satiny honey gold with rich rose highlights and frosty mint lustre in abundance.

Narrow Serif variety, small, narrow serifs on mintmark.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Prooflike Mint State 1857-S \$20*S.S. Central America***Variety 20D**

- 382 **1857-S Bold 7, Faint S. MS-62 PL (PCGS).** Dies 20D, Bold 7, Faint S variety. SSCA #0090. Deep orange gold with reflective fields, frosty motifs, and a generous dose of unyielding lustre.

Large, broad 7 in date, faint, lightly impressed S mintmark on reverse.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Choice Uncirculated 1857-S \$20*S.S. Central America***Variety 20E**

- 383 **1857-S Broken A. MS-63 (PCGS).** Dies 20E, Broken A variety. SSCA #3225. Highly lustrous yellow gold with decided olive and orange highlights on the satiny fields and lightly frosted motifs. Sharply struck and undeniably attractive.

Crossbar of A in STATES broken.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America

Uncirculated 1857-S \$20*S.S. Central America***Variety 20F**

- 384 **1857-S No Serif, Right S. MS-62 (PCGS).** Dies 20F, No Serif, Right S variety. SSCA #4664. Lustrous and frosty motifs set against

reflective fields, all with intense deep rose iridescence present. The obverse is wholly prooflike in appearance, while the reverse is a frosty study in Mint State beauty. Among the scarcest of the varieties identified in the *S.S. Central America* treasure.

PCGS Population for the variety: 31; 12 finer (MS-64 finest).

No Serif, Right S variety, upper left serif of U in UNITED broken, mintmark over right side of N below.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Choice Mint State 1857-S \$20*S.S. Central America***Variety 20G**

- 385 **1857-S No Serif, High S. MS-63 (PCGS).** Dies 20G, No Serif, High S variety. SSCA #2384. Frosty honey gold with intense cartwheel lustre that shows no sign of subsiding. An undeniably lovely coin for the grade. Another scarce variety from the *Central America* hoard, the present coin being one of the 13 finest examples of the variety certified by PCGS.

PCGS Population for the variety: 9; 4 finer (MS-65 finest).

No serif on upper left of U on reverse, S mintmark nearer to feathers above than to N below.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Prooflike Mint State 1857-S \$20*S.S. Central America***Variety 20H**

- 386 **1857-S Bold, Low S. MS-63 PL (PCGS).** Dies 20H, Bold, Low S variety. SSCA #2051. Entirely prooflike in appearance, with reflective fields and frosted motifs that display a rich array of lustre, with splashes here and there of deep orange iridescence. Choice for the grade. We note here that this die variety, 20H, is far and away the scarcest of the varieties from the *S.S. Central America* across the grading spectrum, and especially so in choice Mint State or finer grade. Indeed, the present MS-63 coin is among the four finest examples of the die combination certified by PCGS. Fur-

ther, the current (March 25, 2005) PCGS on-line *Population Report* does not list a "PL" category—perhaps the present coin is the only PL example of the variety to come out of the *Central America* treasure!

PCGS Population for the variety: 2; 2 finer (both MS-64). Again we note that no PL coins are listed by PCGS.

Bold, low S mintmark, S central between feathers above and N below.

Each of the lots from 379 through 386 will be sold on a provisional basis, as described in Lot 379.

From the S.S. Central America.

Collection of Eight Different 1857-S \$20 Die Varieties

Each in Mint State

From the *S.S. Central America* Treasure

- 387 **Collection of Mint State 1857-S \$20 die varieties from the *S.S. Central America*.** Here offered is the opportunity to acquire the coins individually described in Lots 379 through 386 above. One successful bid can take this elegant collection home! At this point in the sale, the provisional awards for Lots 379 through 386 will be totaled, 5% will be added, and that figure will constitute the opening bid for the current lot, Lot 387. If this bid is met or exceeded, the provisional awards will be cancelled and the coins will be owned by the successful bidder on the present lot. (Total: 8 pieces)

From the S.S. Central America.

Uncirculated 1857-S \$20

S.S. Central America



- 388 **1857-S No Serif, High S. MS-60 (PCGS).** Dies 20G, No Serif, High S variety. SSCA #0872. Bright honey gold with strong lustre and excellent eye appeal for the assigned grade.

No serif on upper left of U on reverse, S mintmark nearer to feathers above than to N below. Broken top crossbar on E in UNITED.

From the S.S. Central America.

AU-53 1852 U.S.A.O.G. \$10

S.S. Central America

K-12a, Rarity-4, 884 THOUS



(2x photo)

- 389 **1852 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$10 gold. K-12a. Rarity-4. 884 THOUS. AU-53 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous olive gold with good overall eye appeal. A neat "territorial" gold coin that found its way into today's collecting community after a stay of nearly 150 years on the ocean floor in the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*.

From the S.S. Central America.

Historic 1852 U.S.A.O.G. \$10



- 390 **1852 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$10 gold. K-12, Rarity-4. 884 THOUS. EF-45 (PCGS).** Even pale yellow gold with a few coppery highlights clinging to letters here and there. Widely scattered contact marks are commensurate with the grade and the usual circulation marks seen on non-shipwreck specimens, with only a flaw at CA of CALIFORNIA at central reverse worth noting. A very attractive example whose history adds a bit of interest and value.

From the S.S. Central America.

Nice EF 1853 U.S.A.O.G. \$10

S.S. Central America

K-15, Rarity-6, 884 THOUS



(2x photo)

Another 1853 U.S.A.O.G. \$10

S.S. Central America

K-16, Rarity-5, 900 THOUS



(2x photo)

- 391 1853 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$10 gold. K-15. Rarity-6. 884 THOUS. EF-45 (PCGS). Lustrous yellow gold with distinctive pale olive green highlights. A rare variety in all grades, here coupled with a coin that has a story to tell! Indeed, this coin's Rarity-7 rating suggests that just a handful of examples of Kagin-15 are extant today, and the present example of the variety owes its existence to the *S.S. Central America* treasure.

From the S.S. Central America.

- 392 1853 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$10 gold. K-16, Rarity-5. 900 THOUS. EF-45 (PCGS). Deep yellow gold with olive and orange highlights, and with a great degree of underlying lustre present as well. Remarkably, this attractive example of this rare variety was probably in someone's pocket change the day of the ill-fated *S.S. Central America* disaster in September 1857, thus preserving it for future generations of American collectors to enjoy and contemplate.

From the S.S. Central America.

- 393 Four newspapers featuring contemporary accounts of the *S.S. Central America* wreck: It is often the case in numismatics that original material related to a coin can be rarer than a coin itself! Certainly that is the case with the *S.S. Central America* treasure. Offered here are four contemporary publications, each of which is scarce to rare—far rarer than, for example, a choice Mint State 1857-S double eagle recovered from the lost steamer. The publications are:

1. *Harper's Weekly*, Saturday, September 26, 1857. On the second page is an early account of the loss of the ship, including a six-part poem followed by text, beginning "Another wreck, another cry of horror, another long suspense of doubt and sad uncertainty in one hundred homes!..." As yet, details were few and far between. A brief sketch of the life of Captain Herndon, in charge of the ship, is included. Generally fine or better condition, crisp, some small edge tears do not affect the text or illustrations. As is the case with the three other publications offered here, the issue contains articles and advertisements of interest on various other subjects.

2. *The New-York Times*, Sunday, September 28, 1857. On page 8 are several articles relating to different aspects of the *S.S. Central America* loss, including first-person accounts. Of additional interest, in our view, is extensive coverage of the

financial problems for what became known in history as the Panic of 1857, details of suspensions and closings of banks all over the East. Contemporary advertisements add further appeal to this newspaper from long ago. Excellent condition.

3. *Boston Post*, September 18, 1857. Extremely large format paper, four pages, the front first primarily devoted to advertisements. On page 2 is an early account, "California Steamer Lost With 400 Lives," a gripping but brief sketch from a telegraph dispatch, noting that "her specie, about one million six hundred thousand, is insured principally in London... besides the loss of life, which will carry into the bosom of many families, the loss of so much gold, and the present condition of the money market, cannot fail to be thought of as a serious financial disaster. It probably will be several days before complete accounts can be given..." Generally excellent condition, some fraying at the edges.

4. *Harper's Weekly*, Saturday, October 3, 1857. Eight-page newspaper, in excellent preservation, with the front page article, with engraving, "Thrilling Narrative of a Shipwrecked Passenger On Board the 'Central America.'" Continued on the following page, the article describes the final hours of the ill fated ship. The arrangement of the article is such that the periodical is ideal for framing, making a great item for an office with a numismatic theme. Of incidental interest later in the same issue is an article, "Mining Life in California," with five engravings, two of which are gambling scenes. (Total: 4 publications)

COINS OF THE S.S. REPUBLIC

The latest entry in the annals of lost but found treasure ships is the S.S. *Republic*, a sidewheel steamer that was found by Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., Greg Stem president, and recovered in 2004. Present readers are indeed fortunate to be alive in the present generation, as more spectacular discoveries of American numismatic importance have been brought to market in the past several years than in the preceding century!

The S.S. *Republic*, a steamship 219 feet in length, was launched in Baltimore in 1853. At first christened the S.S. *Tennessee*, its main area of activity was the eastern seaboard of the United States, but certain voyages took it to other places, including across the ocean to France and far south to Nicaragua. Remarkably, the S.S. *Tennessee* saw action in the Civil War in both the Confederate and Union navies, certainly a rare distinction.

After sustaining some damage the steamer was retired, changed hands, outfitted, and renamed the S.S. *Republic*. Such a switch of identities was not particularly unusual, and some readers will recall that the ill-fated S.S. *Central America*, another treasure ship of recent fame, was launched under the name of the S.S. *George Law*.

The S.S. *Republic* was in service in the freight and passenger trade in October 1865, a half year after the Civil War had drawn to a close. Its route on its last and ultimately fateful voyage was from New York City to New Orleans, carrying a modest complement of passengers, extensive stores of merchandise, and a number of kegs, barrels, and bags of coins. Departing New York harbor on October 16, 1865, the steamer headed out into the Atlantic. Seasoned captains as well as experienced travelers knew that voyages in the late summer and early autumn could be fraught with danger, but often proceeded normally. The frightening part came when a hurricane arose, at the time designated as a equinoctial storm, as the autumnal equinox, late summer, was around the midpoint of the season for such. The annals of maritime trade tell many unfortunate stories, some dating back to the days of Spanish dominance in the New World, when entire fleets perished beneath the waves when they were caught in the throes of an unexpected hurricane.

On October 16, 1865, there was no way to predict what lay ahead. The odds were that this or any other trip to New Orleans would be made in safety. Or, even if a hurricane did arise, the vast majority of steamships, and many smaller vessels as well, were able to ride them out. Stories of hurricane-wrought disasters in recent years were few and far between.

Not so with this voyage, and a few days later, in the Atlantic far off the

coast of Georgia, winds arose, waves reached frightening heights, and the unfortunate ship was torn apart. Over a dozen passengers perished, and to the bottom went a fortune in gold and silver coins. No inventory was kept and records of loss are sketchy, but we now know that there were at least a few kegs and bags, perhaps more.

Time passed, other events occupied space in newspapers, the loss of life on the S.S. *Republic* was not staggering enough to be widely memorialized, and in time the disaster was forgotten—almost.

Fast forward to 2004. In some 1,700 feet of seawater, off of Georgia, adventurers on the staff of Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., identified what was thought to be the wreck, confirmed their suspicions, did their homework by settling insurance claims that might have arisen from years ago, and proceeded to see what was down there. Surprise! As time passed

the robotic recovery vessel, the Zeus, and its cameras encountered a virtual carpet of silver and gold—the contents of kegs of years past, since deteriorated, spilling half dollars, double eagles, and eagles on the sea floor. Throughout the year careful recovery took place, documenting the location on the wreck of each item and inventorying artifacts as they were brought aboard. Thousands of coins were recovered, mainly silver half dollars, plus significant \$10 and \$20 gold pieces. Many were encrusted with grime and deposits from the sea floor. After careful treatment by Numismatic Conservation Service, quite a few of the coins were revealed to be mint fresh or close to it, pristine and beautiful. This was particularly true of the gold, the nature of which was somewhat impervious to the



View of New York from Brooklyn Heights, by F.F. Palmer, printed by Nathaniel Currier. It was from New York Harbor that the S.S. *Republic*, shown above, left on her fateful last voyage in October 1865.

seawater. Many of the silver half dollars, not germane to our present offering, had been etched by the saltwater. Still, they were identifiable and interesting as souvenirs.

The treasure finders, Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., has favored us with a truly *selected* consignment, a *crème de la crème* offering of interesting \$10 and \$20 pieces, remarkable for a combination of high grade and scarcity. Each will be a cherished memento, not only for numismatists with a love for quality accompanied by history, but even to a wider audience, as this fabulous find has been chronicled by the National Geographic Society, including in *National Geographic Magazine* and in a documentary film.

The coins await you. Consider them carefully and enjoy the opportunity!

\$10 GOLD EAGLES

Glittering Choice AU 1859 Eagle
From the *S.S. Republic* Treasure

(2x photo)

- 394 **1859 AU-58 (NGC).** Highly lustrous, a bright and satiny yellow gold Liberty eagle with a touch of olive iridescence. The fields are somewhat reflective on both sides, and the strike is sharp and crisp except at a few obverse stars. Absolutely choice for the assigned grade despite some light peppering of marks here and there—many might even call this Mint State! A scarce date in choice AU or finer, a pleasing survivor from a modest mintage of only 16,013 circulation strikes. Indeed, the present survivor is among the first of many gold coins that owe their existence to the loss of the ship, the presentation also involving the intrepid adventurers generations later who recovered them from the depths of the ocean.

Date low, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 twice the distance from neck as bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil, star 1 attached to patch of die lines at dentils below.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

***S.S. Republic* Mint State 1862 Eagle**
Among Finest Graded by NGC

(2x photo)

- 395 **1862 MS-62 (NGC).** A highly lustrous Liberty eagle from the *S.S. Republic* treasure, somewhat reflective in nature with lightly frosted pale yellow gold motifs and wisps of faint olive toning. Sharply struck. A scarce date struck to the tune of 10,960 circulation strikes. Among the eagles recovered from the *S.S. Republic* this piece is of remarkable quality, one of the finest known examples in existence anywhere.

NGC Census: 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

Date central, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 equidistant from neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

\$20 DOUBLE EAGLES

Lustrous AU 1850 Double Eagle
From the *S.S. Republic* Treasure

- 396 **1850 AU-55 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity around the devices. A thoroughly collectable example of the date, the first of the design type to be made for general circulation. A few scattered marks noted, but still a lively coin for the grade.

The present coin, representing the first date of this extremely popular denomination, combines an ideal possibility for a type set with the romance of this fabulous treasure find.

Date central, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 slightly closer to neck than bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over extreme right edge of dentil, upright 5, reverse die crack across tops of UNITED STATES, another atop MER.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Frosty Uncirculated 1851 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic Provenance



- 397 **1851 MS-61 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with strong lustre, and with grand eye appeal for the assigned grade.

Date central, numerals widely spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over extreme left edge of dentil, upright 5, reverse with left side of crossbar on A of STATES thin and attenuated.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous Choice AU 1852 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 398 **1852 AU-58 (NGC).** Fiery lustre explodes on frosty honey gold surfaces, with bursts of yellow brilliance in the protected areas.

Date low, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 nearly twice the distance from neck as bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, faint die crack across tip of bust to top of 8, another through bottoms of all date numerals, slightly italic 5, base of 2 distant from dentils, raised die lumps around base of 1 in LIBERTY (the 1 is actually another L, partly defaced, and appearing thusly in the series from 1850 through 1858), reverse parallel die striations through tops of (O)F AME(RICA).

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Choice AU 1852 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 399 **1852 AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with satiny, lustrous surfaces and a generous quotient of eye appeal. If judged independently, the reverse would easily warrant a Mint State grade, indeed, one that readily approaches choice.

Date low, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 nearly twice the distance from neck as bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over extreme left edge of dentil, slightly italic 5, base of 2 close to dentils, reverse shield stripe clash marks noted at Liberty's ear on obverse, Liberty's portrait clash marks on reverse around the central eagle, left side of crossbar of A in STATES thin.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Sparkling AU-58 1852 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 400 **1852 AU-58 (NGC).** Another choice AU-58 1852 \$20 from the S.S. Republic, the present coin exhibits a high degree of lustre on sparkling honey gold surfaces. Nicely struck.

Date low, numerals widely spaced, top of 1 nearly twice the distance from neck as bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 nearly over right edge of dentil, slightly italic 5, base of 2 distant from dentils, left side of crossbar of A in STATES thin, faint reverse die crack at tops of MERIC.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Frosty Choice AU 1853 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 401 **1853 AU-58 (NGC).** A bright and frosty yellow gold specimen with broadly sweeping lustre, no doubt much the same as on the day it was struck, modified by very limited circulation. Prooflike

reflectivity in the protected areas adds greatly to the already immense eye appeal.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right edge of dentil, slightly italic 5, left side of crossbar of A in STATES on reverse all but missing.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Uncirculated 1854 Small Date \$20

S.S. Republic



- 402 **1854 Small Date. MS-61 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with strong lustre and distinctive rose highlights. A nice coin for the assigned grade, just a few scattered obverse marks from a finer grade—the reverse certainly earns higher honors in our opinion. Fewer than 10 Small Date 1854 double eagles have been called MS-61, as here, or finer by NGC, none of those above MS-62.

NGC Census: 4, 3 finer (all MS-62).

Date low, numerals 185 evenly spaced, 54 nearly touch, top of 1 marginally farther from neck than bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left edge of dentil, dash in field below 1 (remnant of base of 1?) close to top of dentil beneath, another dash above lower left serif of 4 (remnant of base of 4?), italic 5, crossbar of A in STATES a jagged faint line, faint die crack at tops of MERICA.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice AU 1854 Small Date Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 403 **1854 Small Date. AU-58 (NGC).** Brilliant and satiny honey gold with strong lustre and yellow overtones.

Date centered, numerals 185 evenly spaced, 54 closer, top of 1 noticeably closer to neck than bottom of 1 from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, italic 5, raised die line from star 10 to upper hair bun, radiant die clash mark at back of neck, left crossbar of A in STATES thin.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous AU 1855 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 404 **1855 AU-58 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some warm honey overtones. Choice for the grade.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right edge of dentil, italic 5s, raised die lump beneath 1 in LIBERTY, die line at right arm of Y, left side of crossbar of A in STATES on reverse thin and attenuated.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Frosty AU 1855 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 405 **1855 AU-58 (NGC).** Another highly lustrous and choice AU 1855 double eagle from this remarkable undersea find.

Date low, numerals thin and evenly spaced, top of 1 twice the distance from neck than to dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left side of dentil, italic 5s, raised die lump beneath 1 in LIBERTY, die line at right arm of Y, left side of crossbar of A in STATES on reverse thin and attenuated.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous Choice AU 1856 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 406 **1856 AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty yellow gold with honey highlights and strong lustre. An attractive coin with some intriguing die characteristics (see below).

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left edge of dentil, raised die lump on Liberty's neck, two curved die lines (resembling the top of an 8) to viewer's right of lump, upright 5, crossbar of A in STATES on reverse normal, light die clash marks both sides.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Satiny Uncirculated 1860 \$20

Impressive for the Grade

S.S. Republic



- 407 1860 MS-61 (NGC). A frosty and satiny yellow gold specimen with a high degree of lustre, and with physical and aesthetic appeal that goes way beyond the requirements of the assigned grade, at least to the present writer. Lightly frosted motifs and mildly reflective fields form a pleasing though light cameo contrast. Absolutely choice—you'll wish *all* MS-61 Type I double eagles could look so fine!

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, top of 1 much closer to neck than bottom is to dentils, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous Mint State 1861 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 408 1861 MS-62 (NGC). Delightfully brilliant rich yellow gold with intense satiny lustre on lightly textured devices and somewhat prooflike fields. Boldly struck in all quarters. An outstanding coin for the grade in all regards—the quality is such that the few widely scattered abrasions present are easily forgivable. One word? Nice!

Among double eagles of the first design type, 1850-1866 Without Motto, the 1861 is the only date that could be found in Mint State on a fairly regular basis, until the advent of coins from several treasure ships. Today, the possibility of obtaining one example from each of the attributed finds is challenging but can be accomplished. This would entail a double eagle from the *S.S. Yankee Blade* (lost in 1854), the *S.S. Central America* (1857), *S.S. Brother Jonathan* (1865), and the present distribution, *S.S. Republic* (1865). Of the treasures just mentioned, the double eagles found by Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc., in the wreck of the *S.S. Republic* offer the most diverse selection of date and mintmark varieties. Coins in the present sale beckon, and we invite you to consider the possibility of putting together a "treasure set."

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left edge of dentil. From an early die state with myriad raised die polish lines on both sides.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Uncirculated 1861 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 409 1861 MS-61 (NGC). Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some deepening honey gold highlights. Somewhat reflective in the fields. Few marks of any note are present, and the overall quality is substantial for the assigned grade. This coin is worthy of careful consideration!

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left side of dentil, reverse die crack atop TES, diagonal die line through left side of M, crack at tops of MER.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

A Third Mint State 1861 \$20

S.S. Republic



- 410 1861 MS-61 (NGC). Frosty yellow gold motifs and satiny fields showcase the intensely active cartwheel lustre to its finest and fullest advantage. Nicely struck and undeniably choice for the grade.

From the same dies as the 1861 double eagle in the preceding lot, but here in an earlier die state with heavier die lines at M on the reverse.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Uncirculated 1861 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 411 1861 MS-61 (NGC). Frosty honey gold with some yellow brilliance and intense lustre on both sides. Somewhat reflective in the fields as well, which brings to the fore the sharpness of strike and overall appeal of the piece.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right edge of dentil, die clash marks at Liberty's ear and behind her neck, faint reverse die crack at tops of TED STATES OF AMER, die clash marks around eagle.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

One More Mint State 1861 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 412 **1861 MS-60 (NGC).** Highly lustrous yellow gold with reflective fields and lightly dusted motifs. Finer for the grade than usually seen, and worthy of bidding consideration as such.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left side of dentil.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Final Uncirculated 1861 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 415 **1861 MS-60 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with unmistakably prooflike characteristics on both sides. Quite a fine coin for the assigned grade!

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, die lump on tiara below B of LIBERTY.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

And Another 1861 Double Eagle*S.S. Republic*

- 413 **1861 MS-60 (NGC).** Frosty motifs and reflective fields form a pleasing and highly lustrous yellow gold cameo with satiny olive highlights.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 just left of center of dentil, reverse die crack at bottoms of TED, crack from rim closes front of serifs of E(D).

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice AU 1861 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 416 **1861 AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with strong lustre and a wealth of eye appeal, a double eagle that is undeniably choice for the grade.

Date slightly high, numerals thin and evenly spaced, top of 1 much closer to neck than bottom is to dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right edge of dentil, reverse die crack atop MER.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Mint State 1861 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 414 **1861 MS-60 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with distinctive olive green highlights. Far finer overall, both physically and aesthetically, than the assigned grade indicates, and worthy of your attention as such.

Date slightly high, numerals thin and evenly spaced, top of 1 marginally closer to neck than bottom is to dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right edge of dentil, raised die lump on truncation to right of JBL initials, faint reverse die crack atop ES.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another AU 1861 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 417 **1861 AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with satiny surfaces and brilliant yellow highlights. A beautiful coin, conservatively graded in our estimation, but you'll be the ultimate judge of that!

Date central, numerals thin and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, no notable reverse die characteristics.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Mint State 1861-S Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 418 **1861-S MS-60 (NGC).** Frosty and highly lustrous yellow gold with deepening honey gold highlights. This branch mint double eagle exhibits well above average eye appeal for the assigned grade—the reverse is handily finer than the opinion proffered by NGC.

Date central, numerals thin and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil, faint reverse die crack from rim to tops of OF, mintmark nearer to feathers above than N below, left serif of S directly above left upright of N.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice AU 1861-S Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



- 419 **1861-S AU-58 (NGC).** Frosty honey gold with lively lustre and distinctive olive green highlights. Choice and appealing in all regards.

It is likely that at some future date a full inventory of the double eagles and other coins found in the treasure of the *S.S. Republic* will be made available to researchers, adding to the extensive data already available for the *S.S. Central America* and *S.S. Brother Jonathan* coins. In contrast, the alleged finds from the *S.S. Yankee Blade*, lost in 1854, have not been documented and have been the subject of wide speculation. A study and analysis of the dates, mintmark varieties, and grades of double eagles from the three documented ships tell us much about how coins of this denomination were used and how they responded to the effects of circulation.

Date central, numerals thin and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left side of dentil, die lump atop upper serif of B in LIBERTY, reverse die cracks at tops of UN and then to the rim above 1, another from rim above M to tops of ERICA, mintmark closer to feathers than N below, lower serif of S just right of upright of N.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Glittering AU 1862 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic



(2x photo)

- 420 **1862 AU-58 (NGC).** Highly lustrous honey gold with strong yellow highlights on frosty motifs and satiny, reflective fields. From a mintage for the date of only 92,133 circulation strikes, a fairly modest mintage figure when compared to other dates from the era. In fact, the 1862 has the lowest production figure of any regular issue Civil War era (1861-65) double eagle except the rare 1861-O! Further, the present specimen is among the top 25 examples of the date certified by NGC.

NGC Census: 17; 8 finer (MS-64 finest).

Date central, numerals thin and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil, crack from dentil across uppermost tip of star 3, then into field, another crack at rim extends downward across star 6, splitting horizontally beneath the star, one crack leading back to star 5, the other across the field and crown through the LI of LIBERTY, reverse die crack from dentils across lower left serif of A in STATES, then to rays below.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Frosty Choice AU 1862-S \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 421 1862-S AU-58 (NGC). Frosty honey gold with strong lustre and mint brilliance that is almost panoramic. Nice for the grade.

Date central, numerals broad and evenly spaced, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over center of dentil, faint die crack connects stars 1, 2, and 3, crack at bottom of star 13, another faint crack extends across the bottoms of the date numerals and into the field on both sides of the date, reverse die cracks at tops of UNITED, then to rim above first S in STATES, another through bottoms of STAT, another atop ATES OF AMERICA then to the period after D in the denomination, finally connecting the bottoms of TWENTY D., S mintmark closer to feathers than to N below, left edge of left serif even with right edge of left upright of N below.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous 1863-S Double Eagle**Large S***S.S. Republic*

- 422 1863-S Large S. AU-58 (NGC). Frosty and lustrous honey gold with impressive eye appeal for the grade, a sharp and pleasing specimen of the date in all regards.

Date central, numerals boldly presented and evenly spaced, top of 1 slightly farther from neck than bottom is from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, die crack connects bottoms of date numerals, another from top of 1 across Liberty's bust to first star and then to dentils beyond, light crack at star 6, reverse die roughness above NIT, cracks at tops of TED, ATE, and a crack from the dentils below W in the denomination that connects the bases of ENT, S mintmark considerably closer to feathers than to N below, left side of lower serif of S minutely left of left side of upright of N.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Satiny Uncirculated 1864 Double Eagle**Among Four Finest Graded by NGC***S.S. Republic*

(2x photo)

- 423 1864 MS-61 (NGC). A frosty and sparkling yellow gold coin with reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs that display a wealth of rich yellow and olive highlights. Choice for the grade, a delightful Mint State double eagle with eye appeal and physical quality that easily measure up to the requirements of the assigned grade.

NGC Census: 2; 2 finer (finest MS-63).

Date high, numerals thin and evenly spaced, top of 1 twice as close to neck above as bottom is to dentils below, lower left serif of 1 over extreme left edge of dentil (or extreme right edge of space between dentils), lower opening of R on reverse unfinished, rough within with die lumps present.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Lustrous Choice AU 1864 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 424 1864 AU-58 (NGC). Rich honey gold with an intense degree of cartwheel lustre, somewhat satiny in the fields, somewhat frosty on the motifs—you get the picture! A thoroughly pleasing coin in all regards. To date, just a half dozen 1864 double eagles have been certified finer than the present coin by NGC.

Date high, numerals bold and evenly spaced, top of 1 three times closer to neck than bottom is from dentils, lower left serif of 1 over right side of dentil, reverse die cracks at bottoms of ATES, tops of TES OF AMERI, and tops of ENT.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice AU 1864-S \$20**Small S***S.S. Republic*

- 425 1864-S Small S. AU-58 (NGC). Lustrous honey gold with strong eye appeal for the grade. This frosty beauty was scarcely a year or so old before it found its way aboard the ill-fated *S.S. Republic*. Accordingly, the original mint lustre is nearly intact.

Date high, numerals bold and evenly spaced, top of 1 three times closer to neck than bottom is to dentils, lower left serif of 1 over space between dentils, tiny "spike" from bottom curve of truncation points to top of 6, horizontal die clash marks from the reverse shield in Liberty's ear, reverse die crack at tops of AME, small S mintmark equidistant between feathers above and N below, mintmark tilted slightly right, lower serif above left upright of N.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice Uncirculated MS-64 1865 Double Eagle**Tied for Finest Graded by NGC***S.S. Republic*

(2x photo)

- 426 1865 MS-64 (NGC). Bright and satiny olive gold with delightful lustre and an impressive overall appearance. About as close to gem quality as you are likely to find without changing the last numeral in the assigned grade—indeed, there is no *finer* example of the date in an NGC holder, so you may have to look elsewhere if MS-65 is your desire! Regardless, the present coin is one of just two examples of the date called MS-64 by NGC, with none certified finer by that firm! For the record, if you want to judge the quality of the *other* MS-64 1865 double eagle currently residing in the NGC *Census Report*, you need not look further than the following lot!

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

Date central, numerals sharp and bold, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left edge of dentil, raised die line at innermost points of star 4, spidery reverse die cracks through tops of UNI, bottoms of ITED, tops of D STATES, F AMERIC, and through the center of A, bottoms of TY D, other spidery die cracks and clash marks around eagle and rays above, crossbar of A in STATES broken.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Choice Uncirculated MS-64 1865 \$20

Tied for Finest Graded by NGC

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)

- 427 **1865 MS-64 (NGC).** A second bright and lustrous MS-64 1865 double eagle from the *S.S. Republic*, one of just two examples of the date called MS-64 by NGC—see the preceding lot for the *other* MS-64 1865 double eagle! A sharp and satiny double eagle that approaches gem quality at more than one level.

NGC Census: 2; none finer.

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot, here with the reverse cracks slightly more pronounced.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Choice MS-63 1865 Double Eagle*S.S. Republic*

(2x photo)

- 428 **1865 MS-63 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some deepening honey highlights. Absolutely choice for the grade, at least in our opinion.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer (both MS-64).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another MS-63 1865 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic

And Another Choice Uncirculated 1865 \$20

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)

- 429 1865 MS-63 (NGC). A frosty honey gold specimen with plenty of lustre and a wealth of eye appeal. Choice for the assigned grade. The unfortunate wreck of the *S.S. Republic* has yielded a numismatic treasure for today's collecting community, a benefit which we are fortunate enough to reap here early in the 21st century.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer (both MS-64).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

(2x photo)

- 430 1865 MS-63 (NGC). Frosty and lustrous honey gold with much yellow brightness in the protected areas. Choice for the grade.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer (both MS-64).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Yet Another MS-63 1865 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic

Mint State 1865 Double Eagle

Date in Dentils Variety

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)

- 431 **1865 MS-63 (NGC).** Highly lustrous deep yellow gold with honey highlights. Another satiny beauty with claims to a finer grade.

NGC Census: 4; 2 finer (both MS-64).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.



(2x photo)

- 432 **1865 MS-62 (NGC).** Bright and lustrous honey gold with incredible eye appeal for the assigned grade. A lovely example of the rare variety with the tops of another set of 1865 date numerals in the dentils immediately beneath the existing date. Undeniably choice—you'll wonder why more MS-62 Type 1 Liberty double eagles don't exhibit this much overall appeal!

Date central, numerals heavy and evenly spaced, top of 1 marginally nearer to neck than bottom is to dentils, lower left serif over right edge of dentil, heavy raised cross-thatched die lines along the inner edge of the curls on Liberty's neck, tops of date numerals in dentils below date, die crack unites stars 3, 4, and 5, reverse die cracks at tops of TATES and F AMERIC, raised die lines from bottoms of (T)ES to rays below, crossbar of A in STATES broken, top crossbar of E in AMERICA broken.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another Nice MS-62 1865 \$20

S.S. Republic

Another MS-62 1865 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)



(2x photo)

- 433 1865 MS-62 (NGC). Highly lustrous medium yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Very pleasing for the grade! Regarding this specimen, and most of the other 1865 double eagles offered in this section, many of the "finer" coins listed in the *NGC Census* (as noted below) are offered here as well!

NGC Census: 8; 6 finer (finest MS-64).

Date central, numerals sharp and bold, 1 equidistant between neck and dentils, lower left serif of 1 over left edge of dentil, raised die line at innermost points of star 4, spidery reverse die cracks through tops of UNI, bottoms of ITED, tops of D STATES, F AMERIC, and through the center of A, bottoms of TY D, other spidery die cracks and clash marks around eagle and rays above, crossbar of A in STATES broken.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

- 434 1865 MS-62 (NGC). Frosty honey gold with satiny fields and a high degree of lustre. Decidedly choice for a Mint State-62 coin, as one glance will no doubt show.

NGC Census: 8; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Yet Another MS-62 1865 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)

- 435 **1865 MS-62 (NGC).** Frosty and lustrous honey gold with rich rose and orange iridescent highlights on the reverse.

NGC Census: 8; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

A Final MS-62 1865 Double Eagle

S.S. Republic

(2x photo)

- 436 **1865 MS-62 (NGC).** A wealth of radiant cartwheel lustre enlivens the satiny honey gold surfaces of this delightful "treasure" double eagle. Choice for the grade.

NGC Census: 8; 6 finer (MS-64 finest).

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Frosty MS-61 1865 \$20*S.S. Republic*

- 437 **1865 MS-61 (NGC).** Satiny and lustrous yellow gold with warm honey and olive highlights. We cannot conceive of a finer MS-61 double eagle of any date—that's how fine the present coin is!

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

Another MS-61 1865 Double Eagle*S.S. Republic*

- 438 **1865 MS-61 (NGC).** Highly lustrous and delightfully brilliant honey gold surfaces. The final selection in our all too brief offering of treasure double eagles from the *S.S. Republic*.

From the same dies as the 1865 double eagle in the preceding lot. The age of this and other 1865 double eagles was measured in *months*, not years, when the ship went down in October 1865. As multiple examples are found from the same die pair, possibly a group or cluster of these remained intact after minting at Philadelphia, jostled around in a bag to become marked, but still lustrous. Likely, these and the other Mint State coins never reached general commerce.

From the S.S. Republic treasure.

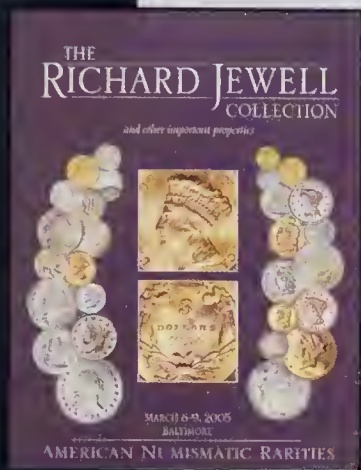
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"I am pleased to recommend your firm to anyone contemplating a consignment."

—Richard Jewell



Dear Chris and David:

I would like to start by expressing how pleased I am with my entire experience with both of you and the whole staff at American Numismatic Rarities. Beginning with our very first meeting in Pittsburgh at the 2004 ANA summer convention, and continuing through the catalogue preparation and the auction itself, you have been of the utmost help and have displayed the greatest amount of professionalism that I could have wished from any auction firm.

The catalog was a work of great craftsmanship, the coin descriptions by David were awesome and the photos by Doug Plasencia were some of his best ever. They captured the true beauty and essence of \$3 gold pieces. Your marketing program was extensive and excellent! Every time I opened *Coin World* or *Numismatic News* I found an ad featuring the Richard Jewell Collection.

I can't express what a great thrill that was for me. Displaying the entire collection at the FUN and Long Beach shows provided maximum exposure of the coins to potential bidders.

On the night of the auction, I was impressed by the total effort of the ANR staff. The room was a beehive of activity, including the coordination of bidding by phone, by mail bidders, on the floor, and over the internet. I don't know how you did it, but it ran like a well-oiled machine.

As for the long-term impact of the sale, I feel coin collectors have gained two modern and updated reference works on \$3 gold pieces: The Richard Jewell Collection catalog and the new book, *The United States \$3 Gold Pieces 1854-1889* by Q. David Bowers with Douglas Winter. In this way the sale was a win-win situation for the entire numismatic community and especially anyone interested in this fascinating series.

My family and I wish to extend our gratitude for the personal attention and professionalism exhibited during the months we have worked together. These months encompassed anticipation, coin separation and, ultimately, personal gratification resulting from our excellent experience and a job well done. I am pleased to recommend your firm to anyone contemplating a consignment.

Sincerely,
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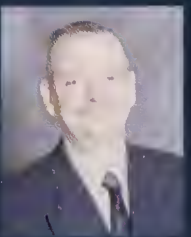
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